

daries and rewarding those who have expended their time and talents in this noble study. Tobias Meyer (a German) for his labours on the Moon, received six thousand pounds sterling from our Parliament, and after his decease, (for he did not long survive, having certainly injured his health by intense mental toil and research,) his widow received a liberal Pension. Mrs. Somerville also has had a Pension. Sir John Herschell notices a young Astronomer of great promise, whom he styles "our young, talented, and unfortunate countryman, Mr. Gascoine," who was contemporary and corresponded with Crabtree and Horrox. They are honorably noticed by Derham, Phil. Trans. 30th, 6. Horrox, he styles, and justly so, the "pride and boast of British Astronomy." As early as 1640, Gascoine had applied Telescopes with threads in the common focus of the glasses, to his quadrants and sextants, and had even carried the invention so far as to illuminate the field of view by artificial light, which he found "very useful during the Moon's absence." The able Astronomers of his time expressed freely their admiration of this, and his various improvements in the art of observation. Gascoine, however, was slain at the Battle of Marston Moor, at the early age of 23, and Horrox, (as before stated,) died suddenly at the age of 22, which calamities to Science will fully account for the temporary oblivion of the invention. Our Letters on Astronomy, we trust will appear written with candour and strict impartiality; we are not led by admiration of great names to adopt their errors; we attach no credit to the elder Herschell's remarks on the four small Telescopic Planets, nor do we credit M. Schræter's estimate of the height of the mountains in Venus and Mercury,—we are disinclined to swallow Whales. The discovery of mountains was a great effort of genius, when Herschell could not even perceive inequalities in their disc or surface. The discovery of the rotation of Venus and of Mercury on their axis, is also due to the talents and perseverance of Schræter,—the spots certainly are the shadows of the mountains, and the spots on Jupiter and Saturn are the shadows of the mountains in these immense Planets; the height of which is possibly proportionate to the size of the Planets. It was by carefully watching the rotation of the spots that the movements of the Planets on their axis has been proved. Uranus has no spots discernible, therefore the period of his rotation is unknown.

We have stated that the Planets perform their circuit in the Heavens under very different circumstances; this must be explained. Mercury and Venus attend on the Sun within certain limits, sometimes visible to the east and sometimes to the west of that luminary. In the former case they are visible over the western horizon first after sunset, and are called evening stars—Venus exhibits at times a dazzling lustre. When at the east of the Sun they rise before him in the morning, and