

an inch on the conventional scale of our imaginary figure), and at that moment had the astonishing speed I have just mentioned. *Now, observe one thing.* The distance from the sun's centre was about $\frac{1}{160}$ part of *our* distance from it. All the heat we enjoy in this earth comes from the sun. Imagine the heat we should have to endure if the sun were to approach us, or we the sun to $\frac{1}{160}$ part of its present distance ! It would not be merely as if 160 suns were shining on us all at once, but 160 times 160, according to a rule which is well known to all who are conversant with such matters. Now that is 25,600. Only imagine a glare 25,600 times fiercer than that of an equatorial sunshine at noonday with the sun vertical ! And again only conceive a light 25,600 times more glaring than the glare of such a noonday ! In such a heat there is no solid substance we know of which would not run like water, boil, and be converted into smoke or vapour. No wonder it gave evidence of violent excitement. Coming from the cold region outside the planetary system torpid and ice-bound, already, when arrived even in our temperate region, it began to show signs of internal activity : the head began to develop and the tail to elongate, till the comet was for a time lost sight of. No human eye beheld the wondrous spectacle it must have offered on the 8th of December. Only four days afterwards, however, it was seen, and its tail, whose direction was reversed, and which (observe) could not possibly be *the same tail* it had before (for it is not to be conceived as a stick brandished round, or a flaming sword, but fresh matter continually streaming forth)—its tail, I say, had already lengthened to an extent of about ninety millions of miles, so that it must have been *shot out* with immense force in a direction *from* the sun ; a force far greater than that with which the sun acted on and controlled the head of the comet itself, which, as the reader will have observed, took from November 10th to December 8th, or twenty-eight days, to *fall to* the sun from the same distance, and that *with all the velocity it had on November 10th to start with.*

All this is very mysterious. We shall never perhaps quite understand it ; but the mystery will be, at all events, a little diminished when we shall have described some of the things which are seen to be going on in the heads of comets under the excitement of the sun's action, and when calming and quieting down afterwards.

"*Good Words for Children.*"—These are "Endless Life," "Endless Joy," "Our Father," "Trust in God."

"*What Hester Durham lived for*" is a beautiful and affecting story of the Indian Rebellion.

"*Sisterhoods.*"

"*Woe because of Offences.*"

"*Remembrance,*" *etc., etc.*

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"*Over-eating and Under-eating.*"

It is a remarkable fact that the children of Lancashire, since the cotton distress, have actually become more healthy, and the mortality among these lit-