

In corroboration of our theory, of the purposes of the comets, I here extract some account from Arago and Lardner's Astronomy, of changes in the appearance and bulk of the tails of certain comets on their receding from our sun.

It is said, in the above work, "The comet of 1759 was now observed in various places. It continued to be seen at Dresden, also at Leipzig, Boulogne, Brussels, Lisbon, Cadix, &c. Its course being observed, it was found that it arrived at its perihelion, or at its nearest point to the sun, on the 13th of March, between three and four o'clock in the morning; exactly thirty-seven days before the epoch first assigned by Clairaut, but only twenty-three days previous to his corrected prediction. The comet on this occasion appeared very round, with a brilliant nucleus, well distinguished from the surrounding nebosity. It had, however, no appearance of a tail. About the middle of the latter month, it became lost in the rays of the sun while approaching its perihelion; it afterwards emerged from them on its departure from the sun, and was visible before sunrise in the morning on the 1st of April. On this day it was observed by Messier, who states that he was able to distinguish the tail by his telescope. It was again observed by him on the 3rd, 15th, and 17th of May. Lalande, however, who observed it on the same occasions, was not able to discover any trace of the tail."

I have here to observe, that in the first account of this comet given in the above work, before it had arrived at its perihelion, or nearest distance from the sun, it is not said it had no tail, therefore we conclude it had one; but, as appears by the above extract, when it had arrived, on the 13th March, at its nearest distance, it had no tail. Now, it appears to me, our theory of the intended offices of comets will account for these facts. The comet, on arriving at the sun, deposited its gaseous matter or tail, therefore, as Lalande says, "he could not discover any trace of a tail."

In page 64, of Arago and Lardner's Astronomy, it is said, "It had been observed, however, in the southern hemisphere at Pondicherry by Pere Cœur-Doux, and at the isle

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