

after Mercury had been last at Perihelion, the great tornado had occurred in Southern Illinois, proving the rule laid down by him at a previous meeting that the forecast at such positions should be "Tornadoes probable in tornado sections."

Mr. Beuthner read a most interesting paper entitled "Human influence in causing Climatic Changes," describing the effect of man's arts and sciences on such.

Mr. Smith followed with an instructive paper on "Some Comets of Long Period,"\* making the third or closing paper on the subject of comets, the three families of short, medium and long periods having been described.

The paper was illustrated by diagrams and drew forth considerable discussion, in which Mr. A. J. Pigeon explained a theory that would account for the formation of cometary trains. He supposed a diffused atmosphere, or substance, surrounding the nucleus on all sides, across which the Sun threw its beams, thus causing the appearance commonly termed a tail, or train.

#### 31ST MONTHLY MEETING.

A question having been asked at a previous meeting as to "the cause of Blizzards in the North-West," President Smith, at the meeting held on April 6th, in answer said that by explaining the summer conditions, those prevailing in winter would be better understood. To the South of the Canadian and American North-West, an arid space extended, from which in summer rose enormous masses of overheated air, and this drifted northwards, setting back the isothermal lines. This hot air met the cold air, and caused rain in Canada, while further South drought might be in order. As the sun went South, the great desert cooled, the wind rushed down from the North, gaining strength and speed as it went South. The gale of Manitoba became a blizzard in Dakota and Nebraska. In Eastern Canada the proximity of the Laurentian Hills and the Atlantic Ocean kept the blizzard at bay.

The President called attention to the approaching opposition of Jupiter, near conjunction with *Graffias* (*Beta Scorpii*.) Also to the close approach of Uranus to Mars on the

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