

NOVA SCOTIA (11) ALMANACK,

like the planets to the attraction of the Sun and other bodies of our system, and describing an elliptic orbit round the sun *nearly*, the difference being attributable to the action of the planets, or perhaps in some degree to a resisting medium.

The next point of consideration is, Comets being material, what is their quantity of matter? that is, are they light or heavy in proportion to their size? Now as it has been proved that they are subject to the attraction of the planets, and that the planets, nay even their satellites have never been sensibly affected by them, although a comet has passed between the satellites of Jupiter; it must follow that their density is not in any proportion to their apparent bulk: Thus if Halley's Comet, which was retarded more than 500 days in its passage between 1607 and 1682 by the action of Jupiter, had been only the twenty-thousandth part of the mass of Jupiter, its effect upon that planet would have even then been most distinctly perceptible by good instruments. The Comet of 1770 approached between the Earth and the Sun, but no alteration in the length of our year or any unusual phenomena took place.

The tail of Halley's Comet, when it appeared in 1682, was one hundred and forty-one millions of miles in length; and the Comet itself has assumed various tints of colour and degrees of brilliancy, differing each time of its return.

INFLUENCE OF THE MOON ON THE WEATHER.

It appears from Tables recently formed, the result of many years' experience and observation, of scientific men in Europe, that the following data have been satisfactorily ascertained; but how far they may be applicable to our climate and situation, remains to be proved.

The greatest number of rainy days take place between the first quarter and full moon; and the least between the last quarter and new moon.—It therefore seems that there is more likelihood of rain in the increase, than in the wane of the moon. And as the Moon is nearer the earth, or in *perigee*, at one time of the month than another, it would seem to follow, like her influence on the tides, it must be greater on the weather; and it appears by observation, that when the moon is in *perigee*, the greater the chances of rain. The times of her *apogee* and *perigee* are marked in the Calendar for every month. And contrary to the generally received opinion, the result of these observations is, that new moon is the least active in a change of weather; and that at full moon a change of weather happens 5 times out of 6; and the changes at the quarters, twice as frequent as the continuance of the previous weather.

According to this theory, we have calculated as to what weather may be expected, for the Year 1835. We know of no method that would enable us to come nearer the truth, than the one we have adopted; but should any of our friends be in the habit of making similar observations, we will be glad to hear