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A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF  
HISTORICAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES, USEFUL KNOWLEDGE, &c.  
WITH FIGURES.

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Professor of Historical and Natural Sciences, Member of many learned Societies in America and Europe, Author of many Works, &c. &c.

*Knowledge is the mental food of man.*

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154. METEOROLOGY.  
*The Luminous Meteors of 1833.*  
By C. S. Rafinesque.

On the night of the 12 to 13 November, 1833, a wonderful display of meteors was visible all over N. America, which has excited the curiosity of the learned and unlearned, alarmed the superstitious, and baffled their inquiries.

Before any correct explanation is attempted, it would be needful to wait for the accounts from all parts of the world; this has prevented me from venturing to write on the subject in the newspapers.

We know already that it was visible from Canada to Jamaica and California; but attended with different circumstances, although simultaneous every where. It may have been visible also in Europe and in China, or at least, wherever it was night.

Shooting stars and flying stars, are a common phenome-

non at night, particularly in volcanic countries; they are probably as common in the day time, but unseen. The meteors of November (which have again appeared partly in some nights of Nov. and Dec.) were not the same thing, being compared to a shower of fire-works, falling rockets, and luminous snakes; clouds, suns and streams of fire, diverging from a circle in the Atlantic Ocean towards the horizon all around on our Atlantic shores; and in California as directed towards the North.

It will be needful for whoever will attempt a rational explanation of this phenomenon, to have before him the accounts from all parts of the world, and to compare them carefully as to time, directions, and appearances. If unseen where it was daylight, it does not follow that the meteors did not exist there also, but they may have been hidden by the solar light.