

idea of the splendid comets described in the books, than any thing which has appeared for many years past.

THE COMET made a brilliant appearance on Saturday evening. It was seen to the greatest advantage at about half past seven o'clock. The nucleus was apparent to the naked eye, and the train extended in the direction towards the star Sirius, through a space of near forty degrees. The nucleus must have set at about eight o'clock.

THE COMET AND THE METEOR.—We understand that observations of the place of the Comet were taken at Cambridge by Mr. Bond, on the evening of the 9th inst., when the nucleus was first seen, and subsequently on the 11th, 14th, 15th, 18th, and 20th. These observations are sufficient to give an approximation to its orbit, direction of movement and period; and calculations founded upon them are now being made. It is certainly receding from the sun and probably from the earth, but may remain visible to us some weeks longer.

Of the real nature of these brilliant but eccentric visitors, nothing or almost nothing is known; and no conjecture concerning them has yet been made which is not rejected by the greater number of scientific men.—It is certain that the nucleus must consist of ponderable matter, because it circles the sun and is drawn from its orbit by the planets, and thus proves its subjection to the laws of gravity. But it is quite as certain that it is attenuated to the utmost conceivable degree, for Sir John Herschel saw *directly through the centre of the nucleus* of Encke's Comet, a star so small that it could be seen in a perfectly clear sky only by means of a good telescope; and this would prove that the thickest part of the Comet must be many thousand thinner than the thinnest cloud. Moreover, La Place ascertained that another Comet passed directly between Jupiter and some of his satellites, without producing the least disturbance among them. We do not know enough of the nature of cometary substance to be sure that it might not effect our atmosphere, or the electrical condition of the earth, and in this way do harm; but there is no probability of this, and no reason whatever to suppose that any shock or violent collision would result from the contact of a Comet.

Of the very beautiful Meteor which appeared in our sky on Saturday evening, so near the Comet that some persons thought it connected with it, the following account was handed us by a very good observer.

About ten minutes before 8 o'clock on Saturday evening, a large meteor was seen in the west, 13 degrees below the Pleiades, beginning one degree below Delta Aries, and extending 20 degrees north. For the first 10 degrees the train was very bright, afterwards fainter, and when about 20 degrees from Aries, it burst into six distinct and brilliant pieces, which soon disappeared. The first 10 degrees of the path or train continued very bright, and remained visible about 25 minutes, gradually drifting higher, or east, until it disappeared. The body of the meteor was of a most beautifully brilliant blue, and increased in brightness until it exploded.

FROM BOSTON.—The packet brig Acadian arrived yesterday in 4 days from Boston. The news is not very important.—The American Astronomers are engaged in describing the Comet which has appeared, and from the calculations made, they have determined it to be a new one.—Daniel Webster has received permission to retire from the Cabinet, and Mr. Cushing will take his place. A correspondence between Mr. Webster and General Cass, while the latter was Ambassador in France, has been published. The General, it appears, threw up his diplomatic office, because the American government was not disposed to take such a belligerent view of the right of search as he was inclined to do; and Daniel Webster reads him a very proper lecture upon his duty as a public officer.

HALIFAX, April 4, 1843.

PROROGATION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

On Wednesday afternoon, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and suite, came down to the Council Chamber, and with the usual formalities, closed the Session with the following Speech:—

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;*

The business of the Session having been brought, by your joint labours, to a satisfactory conclusion, I am enabled to release you from further attendance in Parliament.

Although the measures matured in the course of your recent sittings are few in number, some of them are of great importance; and I have much gratification in observing amongst them one having for its object the regulation of the mode, in which the Waste Lands of the Crown shall in future be disposed of; and another, of yet greater consequence, affecting the qualification of members of the elective Branch of the Legislature, both Bills emanating from the Executive, and calculated, I sincerely believe, to work beneficially for the country.

I regret that it has been found impossible, during your deliberations, to devise such a Law for the enforcement of the relative obligations of debtor and creditor, as would be considered adapted to the present condition of Nova Scotia: and, feeling as I do, that some enactment of this nature is highly essential to the maintenance of the commercial credit of the Colony, I cannot but hope that when next I

meet you, some Law may be framed by which the desired object may be attained. In the meantime I am well content, that the settlement and discussion of a question of so much moment, and involving such various interests, has been approached and conducted with all due caution.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

I thank you for the supplies granted for the current year, as also for the contingent provision you have made to meet any casual emergency. You may be assured that the funds placed at the discretion of the Government shall be carefully husbanded.

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;*

I now dismiss you to your several Counties, confident that you will use the influence you there possess for the promotion of good order and the peace of society; and that when the period shall arrive, at which it will be again necessary for me to have recourse to your assistance, it will be afforded, as it has always hitherto been, with a hearty desire on your parts, to co-operate with me in all plans likely to be conducive to the welfare of the Province.

[From the Novascotian, March 27.]

LEGISLATIVE ADDRESSES TO SIR CHARLES METCALFE.—The following Addresses were presented to Sir Charles Metcalfe, at Government House, previous to His Excellency's embarkation for Canada:—

To His Excellency Sir CHARLES THEOPHILUS METCALFE, Bart., Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, and one of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Governor General of British North America, and Captain General, and Governor in Chief in and over the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c.

The Address of the Legislative Council of the Province of Nova Scotia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia, most respectfully beg to congratulate Your Excellency upon your safe arrival in this part of Her Majesty's Dominions.

Your Excellency's wise and successful administration of the Government of Jamaica, has prepared the minds of all to hail the appointment of Your Excellency to the Chief Command in North America, as an additional evidence of Her Majesty's regard for the welfare of Her People, and justifies the confidence that the Government now entrusted to your care, will be conducted upon the same wise and equitable principles, and procure for your Canadian Fellow Subjects the long desired blessing of tranquillity.

We wish Your Excellency a pleasant continuation of your voyage, and a safe arrival at the more immediate seat of your Government, and most sincerely hope that when you shall resign your high office, you may return to your native Country, bearing with you the affection and gratitude of all Her Majesty's North American Subjects.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen:

I thank you most sincerely, for your very kind and cordial congratulations upon my safe arrival in Nova Scotia.

I shall be happy indeed if the result of my Administration of the Government with which Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to honor me, shall justify the high anticipations you have so obligingly expressed. Again permit me to offer my grateful thanks for your affectionate Address.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir CHARLES THEOPHILUS METCALFE, Baronet, G. C. B., Captain General, and Governor in Chief of the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Governor General of all Her Majesty's Provinces on the Continent of North America, and of the Island of Prince Edward.

The humble Address of the House of Representatives of the Province of Nova Scotia, in General Assembly.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Representatives of Her Majesty's loyal People of Nova Scotia, welcome Your Excellency to this portion of the Realm.

Devotedly attached to the person of our Sovereign, and proud of our connection with the Empire, we view the selection of Your Excellency to preside over Her Majesty's British North American possessions, as a proof of regard for their interests, and a guarantee of future security and peace.

The high character which Your Excellency has sustained in different parts of the world, under trying and difficult circumstances, leads us to anticipate a successful and firm administration, and we speak the common sentiment of those we represent, in assuring Your Excellency that the people of Nova Scotia will be most happy on all occasions to aid your exertions for establishing on a firm foundation British Institutions, and rallying round them the affections of Her Majesty's subjects on this continent.

Wishing Your Excellency every comfort in the prosecution of your journey, we cherish the hope that the noble Province to which your Excellency is hastening, may advance in prosperity under your