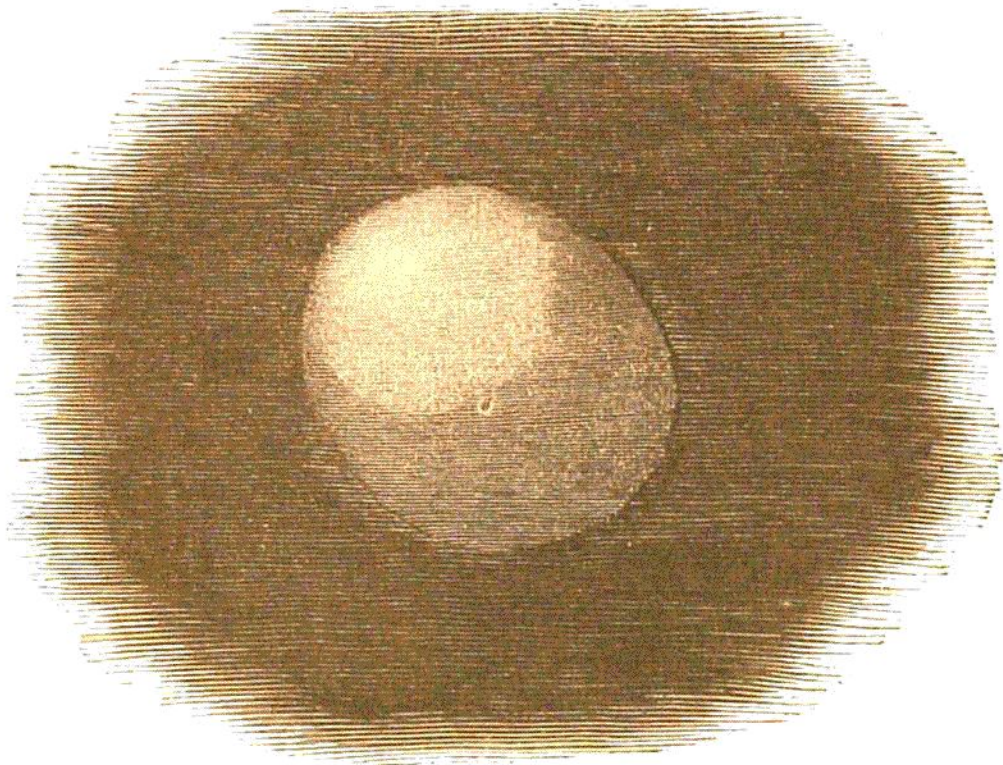


while many seem assuming a spheroidal figure. Others again present a dense central nucleus of light surrounded by a luminous halo; and a series may thus be traced, from clusters of round bodies with one or more increased points of condensation, or of central illumination, to separate nebulae with single nuclei, and with rings, to a central disk constituting a nebular star—and finally to an orb of light with a halo like the sun!

In the comets, those nebular bodies which belong to our own and other systems, we have evidence that even in the most diffused state of the luminous



Tab. 5.—TELESCOPIC VIEW OF ENCKE'S COMET.

matter, the masses which it forms are subservient to the laws of orbicular motion: of this fact an