1832, and by those of Maclear in 1839.* According to this statement, it is the nearest of all the fixed stars that have yet been measured, being three times nearer than 61 Cygni.

The parallax of *a* Lyræ has long been the object of Struve's observations. The earlier observations (1836) gave† between 0″·07 and 0″·18; later ones gave 0″·2613, and a distance of 771,400 mean distances of the earth, with a period of twelve years for the transmission of its light.‡ But Peters found the distance of this brilliant star to be much greater, since he gives only 0″·103 as the parallax. This result contrasts with another star of the first magnitude (*a* Centauri), and one of the sixth (61 Cygni).

The parallax of the Polar Star has been fixed by Peters at 0″·106, after many comparisons of observations made between the years 1818 and 1838; and this is the more satisfactory, as the same comparisons give the aberration at 20″·455.§

The parallax of Arcturus, according to Peters, is 0″·127. Rümker's earlier observations with the Hamburg meridian circle had made it considerably larger. The parallax of another star of the first magnitude, Capella, is still less, being, according to Peters, 0″·046.

The star No. 1830 in Groombridge's Catalogue, which, according to Argelander, showed the largest proper motion of all the stars that hitherto have been observed in the firmament, has a parallax of 0″·226, according to 48 zenith distances which were taken with much accuracy by Peters during the years 1842 and 1843. Faye had believed it to be five times greater, 1″·08, and therefore greater than the parallax of *a* Centauri.‖

* Sir John Herschel, *Outlines*, p. 545 and 551. Mädler (*Astr.*, s. 425) gives in the case of *a* Centauri the parallax 0″·9213 instead of 0″·9128.

† Struve *Stell. compos. Mens. Microm.*, p. clxix.–clxxii. Airy makes the parallax of *a* Lyræ, which Peters had previously reduced to 0″·1, still lower; indeed, too small to be measurable by our present instruments. (*Mem. of the Royal Astr. Soc.*, vol. x., p. 270.)

‡ Struve, *On the Micrometrical Admeasurements by the Great Refractor at Dorpat* (Oct., 1839), in Schum., *Astr. Nachr.*, No. 396, s. 178.

§ Peters, in Struve, *Astr. Stell.*, p. 100. ‖ Id., p. 101.