at a small distance. It was on the 8th of December, 1680, at $\frac{6}{1000}$ distance from the earth to the centre of the sun; but 24 hours before, and as many after, it was at a distance six times greater, and where the heat was consequently 36 times less.

To know then the quantity of this heat communicated to the comet by the sun, we here find how we should make this estimation tolerably just, and, at the same time, make the comparison with hot iron by the means of my experiments.

We shall suppose, as a fact, that this comet took up 666 hours to descend from the point where it then was, and which point was at an equal distance as the earth is from the sun, consequently it received an equal heat to what the earth receives from that luminary, and which I here take for unity; we shall likewise suppose that the comet took 666 hours more to ascend from the lowest point of its perihelium to this same distance; and supposing also its motion uniform, we shall perceive, that the comet being at the lowest point of its perihelium, that is, to $\frac{6}{1000}$ of the distance from the earth to the sun, the heat it received in that motion was 27,766 times greater than that the earth receives. By giving to this motion a duration of 80 minutes, viz. 40 for its descent,