

the moon's body which is turned towards the earth, and consequently she presents different appearances according to the



Telescopic Appearance of the Moon.

position of the illuminated disk in relation to the earth. It will be readily perceived, that when the moon is between the earth and the sun, she must be invisible to us, since her dark surface is the nearer ; but when, by her revolution, the earth comes between the sun and herself, then her illuminated disk is presented to us, and she is said to be at her full. Between these two positions, different portions of the illuminated surface are seen upon the earth, and these are her phases.

A complete revolution, that is, from new moon to new moon, is called a lunar month ; but this period is not equable, as it would be if the sun itself had no apparent motion ; but as it has an apparent, though slower motion, in the same direction as the moon herself, a longer time will be required in order that she may again be brought into conjunction with the sun.