

the horizon. The inverted image is produced by the crossing of the rays before they reach the eye ; that is to say, the light from the hull of the vessel is so curved, that it crosses that which proceeds from the masts before reaching the eye, and consequently the image is inverted. To produce this appearance, a peculiar constitution of atmosphere is required, but it is not necessary that we should enter upon this question at present.

Many instances of the appearance of ships in the air are upon record, but the images are generally described as being in an upright position. Three persons have described this phenomenon, as seen in different places during the year 1662.

Dr. Vince also states, that at Ramsgate he has seen the four turrets of Dover Castle over a hill between Dover and Ramsgate. But the most remarkable case mentioned by this eminent philosopher, was that which he observed on the evening of the 6th of August, 1806, when the image of the castle was so vividly projected on the Ramsgate side of the hill, that the hill itself could not be observed through the image.

The Brocken, a peak of the Hartz Mountains, which rises to the height of about three thousand three hundred feet above the level of the sea, has been, for centuries past, the site of spectral appearances. M. Haue has, unfortunately for the lovers of the marvellous, enabled the natural philosopher to explain the cause, and has thus divested the site of all that interest which arises from a belief in supernatural visitations. This philosopher had been long anxious to view the phenomenon, and had ascended the mountain many times for the purpose, but without success. On the 23d of May, 1797, he was early on the summit of the mountain, waiting the sunrise ; and, about four o'clock in the morning, the luminary made its appearance above the horizon. The sky was clear, and the rays of the morning sun were tinging the summit of the hills with its golden hue, when he saw on a cloud, in a direction opposite to that on which the sun rose, towards the Achtermanshoe, a gigantic human figure, with his face towards him. While gazing on the prodigious spectre with a feeling not free from terror, a sudden gust of wind threatened to blow away his hat ; but lifting his hand to detain it, he saw the spectre mimic his action, and was at once