# HUMBOLDT'S CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

## TO VOL. III.

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### Page 34, line 22.

Since the printing of that part of the *Cosmos* where a doubt is expressed as to whether it has been "shown with certainty that the positions of the Sun influence the terrestrial magnetism," the new and excellent investigations of Faraday have proved the reality of such an influence. Long series of magnetic observations in opposite hemispheres (*e. g.*, Toronto in Canada, and Hobart Town in Van Diemen's Land), show that the terrestrial magnetism is subject to an annual variation which depends upon the relative position of the Sun and Earth.

### Page 59, line 2.

The remarkable phenomenon of the *undulation* of stars has very recently been observed at Trier by very trustworthy witnesses, in Sirius, between 7 and 8 o'clock, while near the horizon. See the letter of Herrn Flesch, in *Jahn's Unterhaltungen für Freunde der Astronomie.*

### Page 132, line 21, note *.

The wish which I strongly expressed that the historical epoch in which the disappearance of the *red color of Sirius* falls should be more positively determined, has been partially fulfilled by the laudable industry of Dr. Wöpcke, a young scholar, who combines an excellent acquaintance with Oriental languages with distinguished mathematical knowledge. The translator and commentator of the important *Algebra* of Omar Alkhayyami, writing to me from Paris in August, 1851, says, "I have examined the four manuscripts in this place of the *Uranography* of Abdurrahman Al-Sufi, in reference to your suggestion contained in the astronomical volume of the *Cosmos*, and found that *a* Bootis, *a* Tauri, *a* Scorpii, and *a* Orionis, are all expressly called *red;* Sirius, on the contrary, is not." Moreover, the passages referring to it are uniformly as follows in all the four manuscripts: "The first among its (Great Dog) stars is the large, brilliant one in his mouth, which is represented on the Astrolabium, and is called *Al-jemaanijah.*" Is it not probable from this investigation, and from what I quoted from Alfragani, that the epoch of the change of color falls between the time of Ptolemæus and the Arabs.

### Page 194, line 21.

In the condensed statement of the method by which the parallax of the double stars is found by means of the velocity of light, it should be