

fect delineation of this nebula has been given by Mr. Johnstone Stoney. (*Philos. Transact.*, 1850, part i., pl. xxxv., fig. 1.) A similar spiral form is observed in No. 99 of Messier's Catalogue, which presents also a single central nucleus, and in other northern nebulae.

It still remains for us to notice, more circumstantially than could be done in "the general delineation of Nature,"* an object which is unparalleled in the world of forms exhibited throughout the firmament, and by which the *picturesque effect* of the southern hemisphere—if I may be permitted to use the expression—is heightened. The two Magellanic Clouds, which were probably first named Cape Clouds by Portuguese, and subsequently by Dutch and Danish pilots,† most strongly rivet the attention of travelers, as I can testify from personal experience, by the intensity of their light, their individual isolation, and their common rotation round the South Pole, although at different distances from it. We learn, from the express mention and definite description of these circling clouds of light by the Florentine, Andrea Corsali, in his travels to Cochin, and by the Secretary of Ferdinand the Catholic, Petrus Martyr de Anghiera, in his work *De rebus Oceanicis et Orbe Novo* (dec. i., lib. ix., p. 96), that the designation which refers to Magellan's circumnavigation is not the older name;‡ for the notices here indicated are both of the year 1515, while Pigafetta, the companion of Magellan, does not mention the *nebbiette* in his journal earlier than January, 1521, when the ship "Victoria" passed through the Patagonian Straits into the South Sea. The very old designation of "Cape Clouds" did not, moreover, arise from the vicinity of the more southern constellation of "Table Mount," since the latter was first introduced by Lacaille. The name would more probably seem to refer to the actual Table Mountain, and to the appearance of a small cloud on its summit, which was dreaded by mariners as portending the coming of a storm. We shall presently see that both the *nubeculae*, which had been long observed in the southern hemisphere, although not definitely named, acquired with the spread of navigation, and the increasing animation of certain commercial routes, designations which were derived from these very routes themselves.

* *Cosmos*, vol. i., p. 85, and note.

† Lacaille, in the *Mém. de l'Acad.*, année 1755, p. 195. This is an unfortunate confusion of terminology, in the same manner as Horner and Littrow call the Coal-bags *Magellanic Spots*, or *Cape Clouds*.

‡ *Cosmos*, vol. ii., p. 287, and note.