

er or with the Milky Way by any appreciable nebulous vapor. If we except the cluster of stars in the constellation Toucan,\* Nubecula Minor is situated in a portion of the heavens barren of stars, and Nubecula Major in a less starless region. The form and internal structure of the latter are so involved that it presents many separate masses (as seen in No. 2878 of Herschel's Catalogue), which present an accurate image of the aggregate condition of the whole clouds. The conjecture advanced by the meritorious observer Horner, that the clouds were once parts of the Milky Way, in which we can, as it were, recognize their original place, is a myth, and quite as unfounded as the assertion that they have exhibited, since Lacaille's time, a progressive movement—an alteration of position. Their position was incorrectly given in consequence of the indistinctness of their margins, when seen through the older telescope having smaller apertures than our more recently constructed instruments; and Sir John Herschel states that the lesser cloud is inserted about 1h. Rt. Asc. out of its true position, in all celestial globes and star-maps. According to him, *Nubecula Minor* lies between the meridians of 0h. 28m. and 1h. 15m., N. P. Decl.  $162^{\circ}$  and  $165^{\circ}$ ; *Nubecula Major* in Rt. Asc. 4h. 40m.—6h. 0m., and N. P. Decl.  $156^{\circ}$  and  $162^{\circ}$ . In the former he has catalogued according to right ascension and declination no less than 919 stars, nebulae, and clusters, and in the latter 244. With a view of separating the three classes, I have counted the objects in the catalogue, which I find gives for

	Stars.	Nebulae.	Clusters.
Nubecula Major . . . . .	582	291	46
Nubecula Minor . . . . .	200	37	7

The inconsiderable number of nebulae contained in Nubecula Minor is very striking, for we find that, compared to the nebulae in Nubecula Major, they are only as 1 : 8, while the ratio of the isolated stars is about 1 : 3. The catalogued stars, almost 800 in number, are for the most part of the 7th and 8th magnitudes; some few belong even to the 9th and 10th magnitudes. There is in the middle of the larger cloud a nebula, noticed by Lacaille (30 Doradus, Bode, No. 2941 of Sir John Herschel's Catalogue), which is said to resemble no other nebulous body in form. Although it occupies scarcely  $\frac{1}{500}$ th of the area of the whole cloud, Sir John Herschel has determined the position of 105 stars of from the 14th to the

\* *Cosmos*, vol. iii., p. 142, and note.