

number of comets in the universe appears to hold good : *ut pisces in oceano.*

Of not less importance is the careful catalogue of comets which have appeared in China, and which Edward Biot has made known from the collection of Ma-tuan-lin. It reaches back beyond the foundation of the Ionic school of Thales and the Lydian Alyattes, and comprises, in two sections, the place of the comets from 613 years before our own era until 1222 years afterward, and then from 1222 to 1644, the period in

sion during seven equal periods, 13, 10, 2, 10, 4, 4, and 9. The following are the individual years :

|               |             |               |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1500—1550     |             | 1550—1600     |
| 13 Com.       |             | 10 Com.       |
| 1600—1650     |             | 1650—1700     |
| 1607          |             | 1652          |
| 1618          |             | 1664          |
| <u>2 Com.</u> |             | 1665          |
|               |             | 1668          |
|               |             | 1672          |
|               |             | 1680          |
|               |             | 1682          |
|               |             | 1686          |
|               |             | 1689          |
|               |             | <u>1696</u>   |
|               |             | 10 Com.       |
| 1700—1750     |             | 1750—1800     |
| 1702          |             | 1759          |
| 1744          |             | 1766          |
| 1784 (2)      |             | 1769          |
| <u>4 Com.</u> |             | 1781          |
|               |             | <u>4 Com.</u> |
|               | 1800—1850   |               |
|               | 1807        |               |
|               | 1811        |               |
|               | 1819        |               |
|               | 1823        |               |
|               | 1830        |               |
|               | 1835        |               |
|               | 1843        |               |
|               | 1845        |               |
|               | <u>1847</u> |               |
|               | 9 Com.      |               |

Of the 28 Comets visible to the naked eye which are here enumerated in the sixteenth century (the epoch of Apianus, Girolamo Fracastoro, Landgravine William IV. of Hesse, Mästlin, and Tycho), 10 were described by Pingré, namely, those of 1500, 1505, 1506, 1512, 1514, 1516, 1518, 1521, 1522, and 1530; further, the Comets of 1531, 1532, 1533, 1556, 1558, 1569, 1577, 1580, 1582, 1585, 1590, 1593, and 1596.