

ber, 1846, upon the average, 27 to 33.) So variable is the abundance of the periodic streams in individual years; but the number of the falling meteors always remains considerably greater than in ordinary nights, which show in one hour only four or five sporadic falls. The meteors appear to be the most seldom in January (calculating from the 4th), February, and March.*

“Although the *August* and *November periods* are justly the most celebrated, still, since the shooting stars have been observed with greater accuracy, as to their number and parallel direction, yet five others have been discovered.

January: during the first days between the 1st and 3d; probably somewhat doubtful.

April: 18th or 20th? already conjectured by Arago. (Great streams: 25th of April, 1095, 22d of April 1800, 20th of April, 1803; *Cosmos*, vol. i., p. 125–126. *Annuaire* for 1836, p. 297.)

May: 26th?

July: 26th to the 30th; Quetelet. Maximum properly between the 27th and 29th of July. The most ancient Chinese observations gave Edward Biot (unfortunately too soon taken away) a general maximum between the 18th and 27th of July.

August, but before the *Laurentius* stream, especially between the 2d and 5th of the month. For the most part, no regular increase is remarked from the 20th of July to the 10th of August.

..... The *Laurentius* stream itself, Musschenbrock and Brandes (*Cosmos*, vol. i., p. 124, and note †). Decided maximum on the 10th of August; observed for many years. (According to an old tradition, which is diffused among the mountain regions about Pelion in Thessaly, on the feast of the Transfiguration, the 6th of March, the heavens open during the night, and the lights (*κανδήλια*) appear in the midst of the opening; Herrick, in Silliman's *Amer. Journal*, vol. xxxvii., 1839, p. 337; and Quetelet, in the *Nouv. Mém. de l'Acad. de Bruxelles*, tom. xv., p. 9.)

October: the 19th and the days about the 26th; Quetelet; Boguslawski, in the “*Arbeiten der schles. Gesellschaft für vaterl. Cultur*,” 1843, p. 178; and Heis, p. 83.

* I have, however, myself observed a considerable fall of shooting stars on the 16th of March, 1803, in the South Sea (Lat. $13\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.). Also, 687 years before our era, two meteor-streams were seen in China, in the month of March (*Cosmos*, vol. i., p. 128).