

Tycho Brahe's, containing the places of about 1000 stars, determined very roughly with the naked eye. On the occasion of a project of finding the longitude, which was offered to Charles II., in 1674, Flamsteed represented that the method was quite useless, in consequence, among other things, of the inaccuracy of Tycho's places of the stars. Flamsteed's letters being shown King Charles, he was startled at the assertion of the fixed stars' places being false in the Catalogue, and said, with some vehemence, "He must have them anew observed, examined, and corrected for the use of his seamen." This was the immediate occasion of building Greenwich Observatory, and placing Flamsteed there as an observer. Flamsteed's *Historia Cælestis* contained above 3000 stars, observed with telescopic sights. It has recently been republished with important improvements by Mr. Baily. See Baily's *Flamsteed*, p. 38.

The French *Histoire Cæleste* was published in 1801 by Lalande, containing 50,000 stars, simply as observed by himself and other French astronomers. The reduction of the observations contained in this Catalogue to the mean places at the beginning of the year 1800 may be effected by means of Tables published by Schumacher for that purpose in 1825.

In 1807, Piazzini's Catalogue of 6748 stars, founded on Maskelyne's Catalogue of 1700, was published; afterwards extended to 7646 stars in 1814. This is considered as the greatest work undertaken by any modern astronomer; the observations being well made, reduced, and compared with those of former astronomers. Piazzini's Catalogue is the standard and accurate Catalogue, as the *Histoire Cæleste* is the standard approximate Catalogue for small stars. But the new planets were discovered mostly by a comparison of the heavens with Bode's (Berlin) Catalogue.

I may mention other Catalogues of Stars which have recently been published. Pond's Catalogue contains 1112 Northern stars; Johnson's, 606; Wrottesley's, 1318 (in Right Ascension only); Airy's First Cambridge Catalogue, 726; his Greenwich Catalogue, 1439. Pearson's has 520 zodiacal stars; Groombridge's, 4243 circumpolar stars as far as 50 degrees of North Polar distance; Santini's, a zone 18 degrees North of the equator. Besides these, Mr. Taylor has published, by order of the Madras government, a Catalogue of 11,000 stars observed by him at Madras; and Rumker, who observed in the Observatory established by Sir Thomas Brisbane at Paramatta (in Australia), has commenced a Catalogue which is to contain 12,000. Mr. Baily