published two Standard Catalogues; that of the Royal Astronomical Society, containing 2881 stars; and that of the British Association, containing 8377 stars. I omit other Catalogues, as those of Argelander, &c., and Catalogues of Southern Stars.

Of the Berlin Maps, fourteen hours in Right Ascension have been published; and their value may be judged of by this circumstance, that it was in a great measure by comparing the heavens with these Maps that the new planet Astræa was discovered. The Zone observations made at Königsberg, by the late illustrious astronomer Bessel, deserve to be mentioned, as embracing a vast number of stars.

The common mode of *designating the Stars* is founded upon the ancient constellations as given by Ptolemy; to which Bayer, of Augsburg, in his *Uranometria*, added the artifice of designating the brightest stars in each constellation by the Greek letters, α, β, γ, &c., applied in order of brightness, and when these were exhausted, the Latin letters. Flamsteed used numbers. As the number of observed stars increased, various methods were employed for designating them; and the confusion which has been thus introduced, both with regard to the boundaries of the constellations and the nomenclature of the stars in each, has been much complained of lately. Some attempts have been made to remedy this variety and disorder. Mr. Argelander has recently recorded stars, according to their magnitudes as seen by the naked eye, in a *Neue Uranometrie.*

Among representations of the Moon I may mention Hevelius's *Selenographia*, a work of former times, and Beer and Mädler's Map of the Moon, recently published.]

I have already said something of the observations of the two Herschels on *Double Stars*, which have led to a knowledge of the law of the revolution of such systems. But besides these, the same illustrious astronomers have accumulated enormous treasures of observations of *Nebulæ;* the materials, it may be, hereafter, of some vast new generalization with respect to the history of the system of the universe.

[2d Ed.] [A few measures of Double Stars are to be found in previous astronomical records. But the epoch of the creation of this part of the science of astronomy must be placed at the beginning of the present century, when Sir William Herschel (in 1802) published in the *Phil. Trans.* a Catalogue of 500 new Nebulæ of various classes, and in the *Phil. Trans.* 1803, a paper "On the changes in the relative situation of the Double Stars in 25 years." In succeeding papers he pursued the subject. In one in 1814 he noticed the breaking up of the