

too, the astronomers were not beaten by the farmers. Their telescopes were from day to day pointed right on the spot where it would be sure to appear—which was advertised all over the world in the almanacs; and it was caught at the earliest possible moment, and pursued till it faded away into a dim mist.

(26.) When lost to European astronomers (for, like those of 1858 and 1861, it ran southwards), Mr Maclear and myself received it in the southern hemisphere; and it was fortunate we did so; for, extraordinary as were the appearances it presented on its approach to the sun, they were if possible surpassed by those it exhibited afterwards; and the whole series of its phænomena has given us more insight into the *interior œconomy of a comet* and the forces developed in it by the sun's action, than anything before or since.

(27.) When first it was seen, it presented the usual aspect of a round misty spot, and by degrees threw out a tail, which was never very long or brilliant, and which to the naked eye or in a low-magnifying telescope appeared like a narrow, straight streak of light, terminating in a bright head; which in a telescope of small power appeared capped with a kind of crescent; but in one of great power exhibited the appearance of jets, as it were, of flame, or rather of luminous smoke, like a gas fan-light. These varied from day to day, as if wavering backwards and forwards, and as if they were thrown out of particular parts of the internal nucleus or kernel, which shifted round, or to and fro, by their recoil, *like a squib not held fast*. The bright smoke of these jets, how-