

ever, never seemed to be able to get far out towards the sun, but always to be driven back and forced into the tail, as if by the action of a violent wind setting against them,—always *from* the sun,—so as to make it clear that this tail is neither more nor less than the accumulation of this sort of luminous vapour darted off *in the first instance* TOWARDS the sun, as if it were something raised up, and, as it were, exploded by the sun's heat, out of the kernel, and then immediately and forcibly turned back and repelled *from* the sun.

(28.) As this comet approached the sun, its tail, far from increasing, diminished; and between the middle of November and the 21st of January, strange to say, both head (that is *coma*) and tail were altogether destroyed, or at least rendered invisible. On the 21st of January the comet was actually seen like a small star without any tail or any haziness, and was only known *not* to be a star by being exactly in its calculated place, and by its not being there next night. After that its head seemed to form again round this star, and grew rapidly and visibly from night to night, putting on appearances which could not be clearly apprehended without elaborate figures. This growth of the comet was so very rapid, that in the interval of 17 days from the time I first saw it as a round body its real bulk had increased to 74 times the size it then had—and at the same rate it continued to swell out, not, however, preserving a round form, but growing longer in proportion to its breadth as if it intended to develop a new tail. But this it never did—the dilatation or swelling out continued, and at one time it had exactly