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made out from the imperfect records we possess of their courses, with that of the comet in question. The next return, on this supposition, would have fallen about the year 1846 or 1847. It did not, however, appear at that epoch, nor in any subsequent year up to the present time, although, from some very elaborate calculations by Mr Hind and Professor Bomme (too elaborate, it would appear, to have been bestowed on the imperfect records we possess of its previous history) it should have been delayed by planetary perturbations for several years beyond that date, and even so late as to the year 1858 or 1860.

(42.) Accordingly, when the three great comets, whose arrival in and since the year 1858 has so surprised and delighted the astronomical world, made their successive appearances, there were few persons at all acquainted with cometary history whose first impression was not that of the return of "Hind's Comet," as it had grown to be called, from the eminent calculator and mathematician who had bestowed so much pains on it. This, however, it is needless to observe, was not the case. Neither of them had ever been seen before, nor can either of them ever be expected to appear again, unless to a posterity which may look back on our record of them as we do on those ancient Chinese annals already spoken of. Of these, by far the most magnificent in point of mere display, as well as the most interesting, when contemplated in a physical point of view, was that of 1858 (the fifth of that year), or Donati's comet, as it is now called, from the astronomer of that