

name, who first observed it at Florence on the 2d of June, at which time it appeared only as a round misty patch or "nebula." This was about a month after it had passed from the southern to the northern side of the plane of the earth's orbit: and that of the comet being very highly inclined ( $63^{\circ}$ ) to the ecliptic; its perihelion lying also on the north side of that plane; its motion being retrograde, and the earth accordingly advancing to meet it;—all these favourable circumstances concurring, it so happened that our nearest proximity to it occurred only six days after its "perihelion passage" or time of nearest approach to the sun, which took place on the 29th of September, and in a situation with respect to the sun every way advantageous to obtaining a good view of it. Accordingly, with the exception of the comet of Halley in 1835, no comet on record has been watched with such assiduity, or been more thoroughly scrutinized. A *resumé* of all the observations of it has been recently published by Professor Bond, forming the third volume of the "Annals of the Observatory of Harvard College, in the United States," in which its appearance in every stage of its progress is represented in a series of engravings, which in point of exquisite finish and beauty of delineation leave far behind everything hitherto done in that department of astronomy.

(43.) It was not till the 14th of August, or 73 days after its first discovery, that it began to throw out a tail, and to become a conspicuous object. Very soon after this, its first appearance; a slight but perceptible curvature was perceived in the tail, which, on the 16th of Sep-