

*Discovery of a New Planet.* By M. Chacornac.*(Extract of a Letter from M. Valz to Mr. Hind, dated April 9, 1853.)*

“ I have the honour to announce to you the discovery of a new planet by M. Chacornac, on the 6th of April at 15<sup>h</sup>, upon our ecliptic chart for hour xiv. It is of the 9th magnitude, and appears of a bluish tint. I have proposed to call it *Phocea*, which recalls the origin of Marseilles, and to designate it by the symbol 24 enclosed in a circle. At 15<sup>h</sup> 40<sup>m</sup> M.T. it followed 27363 or 27366 of Lalande (which is merely the same star, not double), by 4<sup>m</sup> 11<sup>s</sup>.9 of time, and was more to the north by 11' 2". In one hour its retrograde motion in right ascension was only 1<sup>s</sup>, and it had just passed the ascending node on the preceding day. On the following night, the sky being overcast, it was impossible to obtain a better determination of the direction of motion. On the 8th of April, at 11<sup>h</sup> 58<sup>m</sup>, it followed No. 16 of zone 205 of Argelander, by 1<sup>m</sup> 57<sup>s</sup> of time, and was more to the north by 4' 22". It thus described about 30' in 44 hours, under an inclination of 55° to the ecliptic, indicating thereby a very inclined orbit. I was induced by this circumstance to calculate the inclination upon the hypothesis of the circle, and found it to be 28° 7'; I also found the longitude of the ascending node to be 214° 48'. On the 5th of April, at 11<sup>h</sup>, the planet would have passed through the node at a distance of 2.4 from the sun; but this can only be regarded as a rough approximation. On the 8th of April, at 13<sup>h</sup>, the planet completely occulted a star of the eleventh magnitude, which may serve to procure a very accurate determination of its position.

“ I herewith send you the elements which I have obtained for the last comet, which would appear to be the same as that of 1664, but very much enfeebled, if one may judge from the phenomena accompanying their respective apparitions.”

Pass. Per. Feb. 24.067, 1853, M.T.	
Dist. Per. ....	1.0761
Long. Per. ....	154°49'
Long. Asc. Node .....	61 33
Incl. ....	18 32

Motion retrograde.

*Discovery of a New Planet.* By Prof. De Gasparis.*(Extract of a Letter from Professor De Gasparis to Mr. Hind, dated Naples, April 10, 1853.)*

“ It is probable that you have already discovered the new planet, very near the ecliptic, which I discovered on the 5th of