least, and it might materially help the Fellows in their selection of the executive body if they were informed who the men are who really do the work, in contradistinction to those whom we may regard as merely ornamental members of that body. For myself, I would rather get rid of any one who has figured nominally only on the Council for one year, than I would of a member who could point to twenty-five years of assiduous attendance and real personal work on it.

Faithfully yours,

WILLIAM NOBLE.

Forest Lodge, Maresfield, Uckfield,
1887, Dec. 14.

[The desired information shall be given next month.—EDS.]

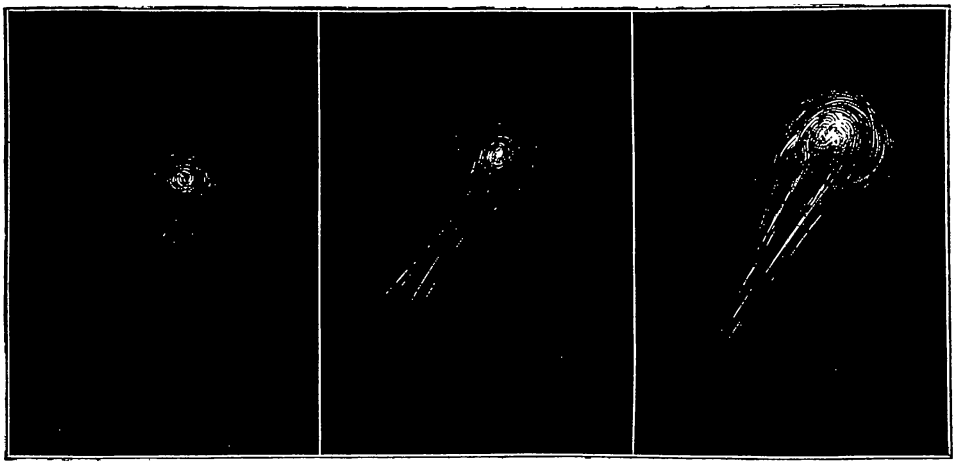
The Olbers-Brooks Comet.

GENTLEMEN,—

Observations of this comet, discovered by me on the morning of 1887 August 25th, have been made with the 9-inch silver-on-glass reflector on every available opportunity. The work has been greatly interrupted by cloudy weather and moonlight. I send herewith a few notes and sketches.

At discovery the comet was an easy object in the 9-inch reflector. The nucleus was brightish, though diffused, and the existence of a short faint tail was noted. Four days afterwards, *i. e.* on August 29, the comet presented the appearance shown in fig. 1.

Fig. 1.—Aug. 29. Fig. 2.—Aug. 31. Fig. 3.—Sept. 17.

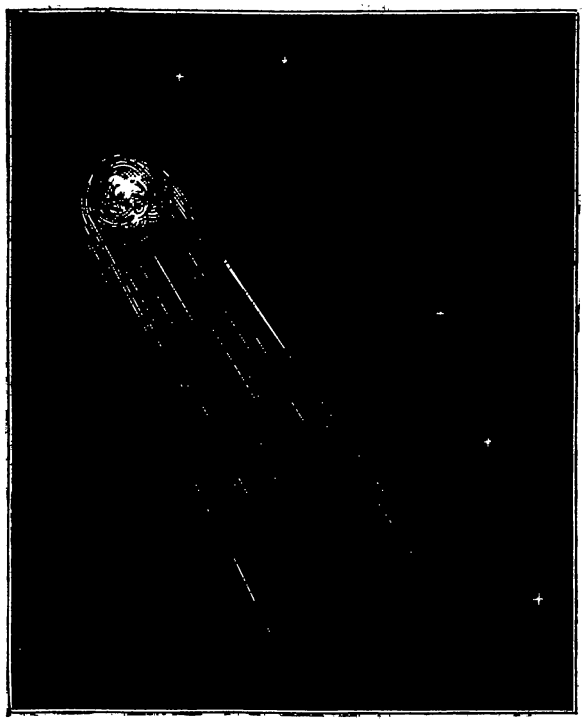


Telescopic Views of the Olbers-Brooks Comet, 1887. Power 100.

Aug. 31.—Comet was much changed in form, as indicated in fig. 2, and was just visible in a 2-inch achromatic of short focus, mounted on an equatoreal stand with circles as a star-finder.

Sept. 17.—Comet was found considerably brighter, and the tail much more prominent. Its appearance is shown in fig. 3.

Fig. 4.—Oct. 14.



Olbers-Brooks Comet. Power 100.

Fig. 4 shows the appearance of the comet on Oct. 14, about six days after perihelion passage. This was probably the epoch of its greatest brilliancy. The tail was broad, and the nucleus decidedly granular in appearance when viewed with powers of 100 to 150 diameters. Its whole appearance was that of a large naked-eye comet in miniature.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM R. BROOKS.

Red House Observatory,
Phelps, N. Y., U. S. A.
1887, Nov. 21.

[We have also received a letter from Mr. W. H. S. Monck with reference to Prof. H. A. Newton's paper on the "Origin of Comets" (see 'Observatory,' No. 21, p. 310). Mr. Monck has formed a table similar to that diagrammatically represented on p. 320, and gives an account of the result, which on examination we take to be coincident with Prof. Newton's.]

NOTES.

THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 1887, AUGUST 19.—Dr. B. von Engelhardt has kindly sent us a German translation of a Russian paper by Dr. Handrikof, Professor of Astronomy at Kief, con-