

PHILOSOPHICAL
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**Of the Judgement of Some of the
English Astronomers, Touching the
Difference between Two Learned Men,
about an Observation Made of the First
of the Two Late Comets**

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Of the Judgement of some of the English Astronomers, touching the difference between two learned men, about an Observation made of the First of the two late Comets.

Whereas notice has been taken in *Num. 6.* of these *Transactions*, that there was some difference between those two deservedly celebrated Philosphers, *Monfieur Hevelius* and *Monfieur Auxout*, concerning an Observation, made by the former of them, on the 3^d of *February 1665.* & that thereupon some Eminent *English* Astronomers, considering the importance of the dispute, had undertaken the examination thereof; it will, 'tis conceived, not be unacceptable to such, as saw those Papers, to be informed, what has been done and discerned by them in that matter. They having therefore compared the Printed Writings of the two Dissenters, and withall consulted the observations made with *Telescopes* at home, by some of the most intelligent Astronomers amongst them, who have attentively observed the Position of that *Comet* to the *Telescopical* stars, that lay in its way; Do thereupon Joyntly conclude, that

By *Telescopical Stars* are understood such, as are not seen, but by the help of a *Telescope.* whatever that Appearance was, which was seen near the *First Star* of *Aries*, by *Monfieur Hevelius* (the truth of whose relation concerning the same, they do in no wise question) the said *Comet* did not come neer that *Star* in the left *Ear* of *Aries*, where the said *M. Hevelius* supposes it to have passed, but took its course neer the *Bright Star* in its *Left Horn*, according to *Bayers* Tables. And since that the Observations of judicious both *French, Italian, &c. Dutch* Astronomers (as many of them, as are come to the knowledge of the *English*) do in the main fully agree with theirs, they do not at all doubt, but that, there being such an unanimous con-

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consent in what has been just now declared, & the Controversie being about *Matter of fact*, wherein Authority, Number, and Reputation must cast the Ballance, *Monf. Hevelius*, who is as well known for his Ingenuity, as Learning, will joyn and acquiesce in that sentiment.

Of a Correspondency, to be procured, for the Finding out the True distance of the Sun and Moon from the Earth, by the Parallax, observed under (or neer) the same Meridian.

Seeing that the knowledge of this distance may prove of important Use, for the Perfecting of Astronomy, and for the better establishing the doctrine of *Refractions*; it is in the thoughts of some very curious Persons in *England*, for the finding out the same, to settle a Correspondency with some others abroad, that are understanding in Astronomical matters, and live in places farr distant in *Latitude*, and under (or near) the same *Meridian*.

To perform which, the following Method is proposed to be observed; *viz.* That at certain times agreed on by two Observatours, making use of *Telescopes*, large, good and well fitted for this purpose, by a measuring rod, placed within the Eye-glass at a convenient distance, that it may be distinctly seen, and serve for measuring small distances by minuts and seconds (which is easie enough in large *Telescopes*) that, I say, each of such observers, thus furnish'd, shall observe the visible way of the *Moon* among the *Fixt stars*, (by taking her exact distance from any *Fixt Starr*, that lyes in or very near her way, together with the exact time of her so appearing) and the then apparent Diameter of her Disk; continuing these Observations every time for two or three hours, that so,
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