

The prism-plan (as far as your time enabled you to explain it) seems to me to accomplish nothing more than is already done by the eye-piece prism in the spectroscope, with much less trouble. Nevertheless, as I said before, there is great ingenuity in the ideas - Pray go on with all such things - and twist them into all manner of possible & impossible shapes. Something may come out of them that may well repay your troubles.

I have sent up a long letter to the Editor of the Pop. Sci. Rev. which I hope his readers may like better than I did, by the time I had ended it. It leaves matters pretty much like the last Chapter in Rasselas - "The Conclusion, in which Nothing is concluded." - However it may have some possible use as matter of comparison some future season.

Wille had often asked me to try the effect of stopping off the extreme rays of the speculum - it being impossible, as Dela Rue had told him, to carry perfection to the very edges. (This by the way is always done by opticians in the mere process of enclosing it in a cell.) I was loth to give myself so much trouble, as to stop at the mouth of the tube could hardly be managed accurately enough with a paper trial - & the speculum

would have to be taken out - however at last I tried it, & with admirable effect. The "flare" which used to annoy me with large stars, had disappeared, & the image gained greatly in sharpness & beauty. But Jupiter, and the system, - Have gone off together. - I caught however the little black point in Linné one night last week.

We saw a good deal of dear kind Mr. Berthon in Bath, & went together to explore an observatory on Lansdown, where was a big silver-reflector, home-made, of more than 14 in: diam: very expensively & badly mounted, & not promising much. A 6 in: metal combined in the same mounting was charming for colour, transparency, polish. The owner an intelligent man - but no match for Berthon (and that, no discredit to him either). My dear wife was greatly the better for her stay in the delightful warmth of Bath - and still I am thankful to say preserves much of the good effect: but we have had a good deal of worry since our return, with servants: the Cook (one you had not seen) turning out incompetent - & Ellen the parlour-maid, whom you may recollect, becoming so importunate that she was obliged to be dismissed after being here 5 years. Such things are disappointing and vexatious: and I do not think the world improves - certainly not, in proportion to the pains taken to mend it. In some respects - especially an incubinate temper - it certainly grows worse - & this prognosticates a future I do not like to dwell upon. You young folks have a