

distinct formation - in other instances, as far as I know or can remember, it has been only traced "sunwards"; as Stevenson expresses it, & if continued past the nucleus, had been merged in the ordinary tail.

We have got a proof here, I fancy, that ~~the~~ however rapid may be the translation of the Sun thro' space, its immediate neighbourhood must be intensely heated. For if the Coma was gaseous, would it not be too ~~transparent~~ <sup>diathermanous</sup> to be heated up to such intense brilliancy by radiant heat? Would it not rather be fired up by convection? I don't feel at all sure about a matter too deep for me - but just throw it out as material for thought - Also, it never occurred to me till this moment - but surely it is an indication of the all but perfect emptiness of space, that that motion of translation affects the form & extent neither of the prominences nor coronae.

Your old friend is speculative, you see, in his advancing age. I bless Him who has been pleased to continue mine so long, serviceable sight & brain.

There was a fine crimson aurora yesterday evening after sunset. Perhaps they are returning. Other regions were yellowish, & the spectrum - band strong. My wife's kind love  
yours very affectionately J. W. Webb

Hardwick Vicarage 17 Nov. '82 (after post.)

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My dearest Arthur,

Little did I imagine when I wrote to you yesterday, that I should do so again this evening - but "look ye here!" This morning brings me a letter from a N. Zealand correspondent, which is, to my thinking, too valuable & interesting to be kept back from the R.A.S. Will you please read it - & if you agree with me, will you please get the Secretary (I forget who he is) to read it as communicated by myself - which I think is etiquette on such occasions. - I have crossed out with red ink the portions which do not suit the purpose - and when done with, should feel obliged by the return of the letter. Here is one of the very best cases of the anomalous Tail! -

- If their right worshipful Dignities will please to put it in, I have this morning sent a short notice which you will see in the Times & but I have taken care (as I hope) to word it in so general a way that it would not prevent the publication of the letter in M. Notices, if the Editor of them (please who is he?) should think fit. - Stevenson is, I suppose, a clerk in a merchant's office at Auckland - a very nice fellow, as you will see at once by his letter - and his ability & modesty thoroughly deserve the recognition which I wish to get for him - very much I expect to his astonishment - in the Old Country. I first became acquainted with him thro' his anxious desire to get as good an instrument as his means would reach. Aug 82