

I have met with a few crines on stars - & one in Orion
has I am pleased to find turned out an unquestionable
Variable. I sent an account of it to the last Phil. meet-
ing, where I dare say there would be little chance of its
being read, owing to Eclipse matter - but it may probably ap-
pear in the "Notices." - I ought to have told you long before
how very pleased we were to find how much you had succeed-
ed in seeing of the Eclipse - or to see by & by when it all
from your own lips. - It was pretty well seen here, in
great straits. I amused myself now & then with a little
spectroscope, & see some queer things - I am further than ever
from believing that colour, & wave-length, are connected. I do
not venture to say that Brewster was right - but his idea
is not buried, nor even dead as yet. As to some of the sup-
posed colour-invariabilities I am inclined to say with the old
doggerel,

You shall see - you shall see
A horse's head where his tail should be!

But I am not in a humor for much fun. The miseries
of poor, poor France have deeply overshadowed us - & for many
Sundays I have prayed publicly for the City of Paris - little
knowing who else may have done the like. My wife's kindish
love & best wishes with mine
Your unworthy loving old friend T. W. Webb

Hardwick Vicarage, 26 Jan. 1871.

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My dearest Arthur,

You may conceive with what sad & grievous con-
cern your loving friends here received (tho' Miss Webb,
to whom I applied for Vol. II of N. Wallington) the
news of your illness - an illness too, so painful to bear,
and so uncertain in its continuance. We wrote directly
to your good father about it, and received your address from
your Mother yesterday - and not another post much so without
the expression of our loving sympathy in your trouble, and
our anxious desire for your speedy recovery, and return.
I hope you will be able to send us very soon a comfortable
message through your parents, and we trust it may not be
long before we see the assurance of your recovery in your
own hand-writing. Meanwhile, we feel assured that all is
right - and much more right than we could make it if
we had the power - and we humbly trust that this afflic-
tion may prove to you a great means of growth in grace,
and in all spiritual blessings. It is a joy to us to