

and is therefore seen for a shorter time after sunset—or before sunrise, as the case may be—(for quite as many comets are seen in the morning before sunrise as in the evening after sunset). At last it approaches so near the sun as to rise or set very nearly at the same time, and so ceases to be seen except it should be so very bright and so great a comet as to be visible in presence of the sun.

(6.) When this has taken place, however, the comet is by no means to be considered as dead and buried. After a time it reappears, having passed by the sun, or perhaps before or behind it, and got so far away on the other side as to rise before the sun or set after him. If it first appeared after sunset in the west, it will now reappear in the east before sunrise. And what is very remarkable, its shape and size are usually totally different after its reappearance from what they were before its disappearance. Some, indeed, never reappear at all. The path they pursue carries them into situations where they could not be seen by the same spectators who saw them before. Others—like those which appeared in 1858 and 1861, without altogether disappearing as if swallowed up by the sun—after attaining a certain maximum or climax of splendour and size die away, and at the same time move southward, and are seen, as that of 1858 was (on the 11th of October for the first time), in the southern hemisphere, the faded remnants of a brighter and more glorious existence of which we here witnessed the grandest display. And on the other hand we here receive as it were many comets from the southern sky, whose greatest display the inhabitants of the southern parts of the earth