

I: *A description of the Phenomenon of March 6. last, as it was seen on the Ocean, near the Coast of Spain. With an Account of the return of the same sort of Appearance, on March 31. and April 1. and 2. following.*

**I**N our last, we endeavour'd to give the Publick as good an Account of the late surprizing *Meteor*, seen in the Heavens, on the sixth of *March* last, as could be gathered from the several Relations of very distant Spectators, which had then come to the *Royal Society's* Notice. And since then, we can only add thereto, that at *Paris*, the Light was so inconsiderable, that it was not regarded: But from a Letter to Mr. *Alexander Geekie*, Surgeon, dated on Board a Ship in *Nevis* Road, in *America*, April 19 1716. we have copied the following Passage. " On the sixth of *March*, at 9 a Clock " in the Evening; we being then in the Latitude of  $45^{\circ}.36'$ . " (off of the *N. W.* Coast of *Spain*). A clear Cloud appeared *East* of us, not far distant from our Zenith, which " afterwards, darted it self forth into a number of Rays of " Light, every way like the Tail of a Comet, of such a " great Length, that it reach'd within a short way of the " Horizon. There likewise appear'd a Body of Light, " *N. N. E.* of us, and continued as Light almost as Day, till " after 12 a Clock. It appear'd at a good distance from us, " and darkned on a sudden.

Hence it should seem, that the Vapour which caused this Appearance, arose indifferently out of the deep Ocean Sea, as well as from the Land; by which we may conclude the great Subtilty of the Matter thereof, since it could permeate so great a Quantity of Water, and yet retain its Velocity; which is a Circumstance deserving the further consideration of the Curious.

But since this, most of the same *Phænomena* have been repeated three several Nights successively, viz. On the last of *March*, and first and second of *April*. The best and fullest Description

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sion of the two first, is, from a Letter of Dr. *Brook Taylor*, LL. D. and Secretary to the *Royal Society*, dated *April 2*, from *Cotterstock*, near *Oundle* in *Northampton-shire*, who thus describes them. "On *Saturday Night* last, and last Night, I saw Appearances of the same kind, with those of *March 6*. but not to compare for Extent and Strength to the other. They both began soon after Sun set, and continued till after 12, but how much longer I cannot tell. They were both about 10 or 15 degrees to the Westward of the *North*, and took up about 80 degrees of the *Horizon*; and the *Aurora* rose about 30 gr. high, with a dark Bottom, like what was seen in the First; and from whence there sprung out several Bodies of Light, which immediately run into Streams, ascending about 30, or at most 40 gr. high. There was no flashing nor waving Light, but in all other respects, these Lights were of the same kind with what we saw at *London*. Indeed in that last Night, there was one *Phaenomenon* like the flashing Light, for a Body of Light about 15 or 20 degrees long, parallel to the *Horizon*, rose till it came about 6 degrees above the black Basis, and then sent up two strong Streams of Light about 40 gr. high, which at top dash'd against one another, and disappear'd."

At *London*, the first Night, *March 31*. It did not begin to radiate, till towards Mid-night, and was seen but by few curious Persons; the Beams not rising very high, and scarce appearing over the Houses, were little taken notice of: but by the Relation of those that saw it, it was much more considerable than the next Night following *Easter-day*, for it then sent out but few and very short Beams, mostly terminating in a sharp Point, and presently disappearing. Only it beginning to stream so soon as it became Dusky, it was very observable, that those Rays which arose out of the West end of the Luminous Arch, next the Sun, were enlightened by its Beams, and shew'd themselves much brighter than those which sprung up under the Pole, or to the Eastward thereof. And after Nine, till Mid night, no more Beams arose; and the Luminous Arch with its black Basis, settled down very low in the Northern Horizon.

The same two Nights, by the Observation of Mr. *William Lingen*, the like Appearance was seen at *Dublin*, about the  
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hours of Nine or Ten ; at which time, in the former Night, it was near as Light as in a Moon-light Night. And from *France* we have an Account, that both those Nights, the same was seen at *Paris*, with much the same Circumstances as at *Dublin*. So that it seems this Meteor, though no ways comparable to that of the 6th of *March*. was seen not less than 150 Leagues, and probably much further.

The following Night, *April 2*. When it began to be dark, a Luminous Arch appear'd in the *North*, with a very narrow black Bottom under it, very low, and depress'd to the Horizon ; nor was it seen at, or about *London*, to project any pointed Rays as the former.

But what was most remarkable that Evening, was, what was seen at *London*, by that ingenious Gentleman *Martin Foulks*, Esq; R. S. S. about Nine that Night. He being in the open Air at that time, saw in an Instant, a bright Ray of very white Light, appear in the East, out of the pure Sky, then very serene and still ; it very much resembled the Tail of a Comet, and was about 20 gr. inclined from the Perpendicular to the Right, beginning about  $\gamma$  of *Bayer* in the *Corona Borea*, and terminating about the *Informis* by some call'd *Cor Caroli*. This having appear'd but a very short time, disappear'd at once, as in a Moment. When on a sudden, such another Beam was instantly produced, not exactly in the same place, but in the same Situation. Its lower end being about 20 gr. high, was terminated exactly between  $\kappa$  and  $\gamma$ , in the Right Hand and Arm of *Hercules*, and the Middle of it pass'd over  $\sigma$  and  $\zeta$  in the Girdle of *Bootes*, and thence proceeded Westwards, leaving *Cor Caroli* four or five degrees to the Northwards. After it had continued in this posture near 10 Minutes immoveable among the Stars, it began to move slowly towards the North : and the lower end passing over the Northern Edge of the *Crown*, and the Ray it self over *Cor Caroli*, it grew fainter, and vanish'd, having continued in all about 20 Minutes. This latter with some Interruptions was extended between *Castor* and *Pollux*, very far into the West. And about that time, the same, or such another Beam, was seen at *St. Asaph*, by Doctor *Stanley*, the Reverend Dean of that Church.