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Account of a remarkable halp.

Barker.

26983



Philos. Trans. of Royal Society
iii [3] 1762

of expensive stone-work in building harbours may be avoided, by the help of furze mounds.

I am,

With the greatest respect,

Reverend Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble fervant,

Had^d. Dec. 13, 1760.

Da. Wark.

II. *An Account of a remarkable Halo: - In a Letter to the Rev. William Stukeley, M. D. F. R. S. from Tho. Barker, Esq;*

Reverend Sir,

Read Jan. 8, 1761. **I** Thank you for presenting my paper on the Dog star to the Royal Society; the opinion advanced in which is so very unusual, that I expect it will be at once rejected, as incredible, by all, who do not care for the work of examining the evidence for it. But I should be glad to hear; that some impartial person had carefully searched, whether what I have said be supported by fact, and what other evidence can be found, which I have missed, either in support or confutation of that change of colour in Sirius; which I have supposed.

I have long neglected to acknowledge the favour of your information about the comet in Orion last January; but had nothing particular to say about it, not

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Rare Books from 1600-1800

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Barker, Tho.

A remarkable halo.

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having the luck to see it. I did not happen to look out on the Tuesday night, when it was seen; so heard nothing of it, till the news-paper on Saturday, when I did look for it with my naked eye and telescope also; but as it was dwindled, I did not find it; and the rather, as its motion was so swift, I could not, so many nights after, know well where to look for it. The comet of 1664, might have appeared nearly in the same place this was seen, with a swift motion, a pretty many degrees in a day, as a retrograde comet in opposition to the sun generally has; but, I think, would not have been near enough to have moved a degree in an hour, as this did; and I think it would also have been larger, and continued longer, than this; for in 1664, it was seen four months, and when far distant from the earth; and, in the position it must have been in last January, would hardly have gone farther back than the beginning of Gemini, in small N. latitude, and is, I believe, one of the largest comets.

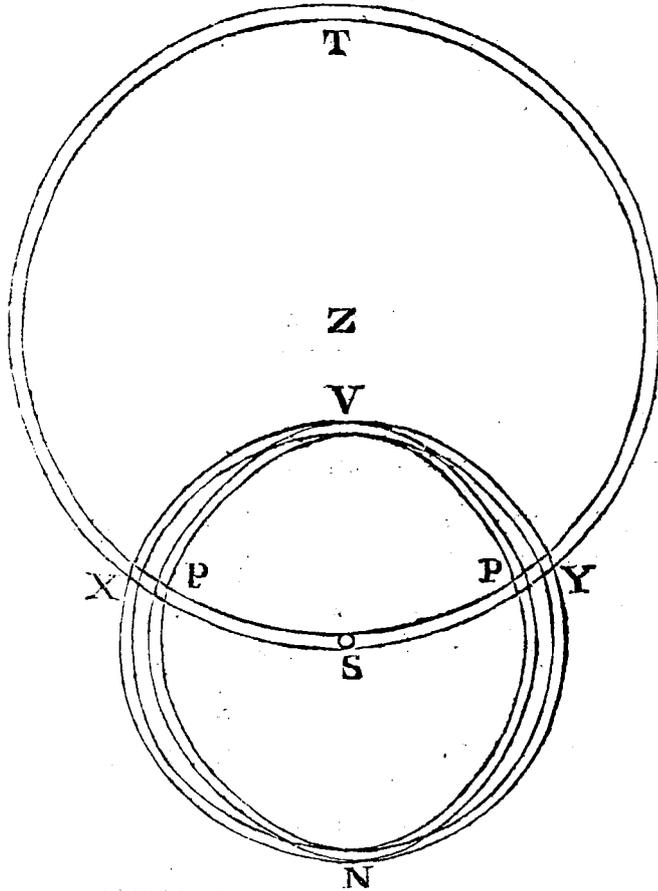
I have long had by me an account of a remarkable halo, I was called out to observe, May 20, 1737, a quarter before eleven in the morning, and which continued half an hour, in a clear hot sky; and was as in the figure.

The common halo V X N Y, and the horizontal white circle S X T Y, were no way different from usual; nor were any parhelia seen. All, that was remarkable, was an elliptical halo V P N P, coinciding at the top and bottom with the common one, but four degrees narrower in the lesser diameter at P and P, coloured just like the halo, and at the coinciding places, especially at V, very bright.

I call

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I call $VPNP$ the elliptical halo, because it appeared so to me; yet, as the horizontal diameter was only guessed at, and nothing measured, but the altitudes of the points S , V , N , and T , which gave the diameter of the halo VN 45° , I will not be positive, that $VPNP$ was not the circular one, and $VXNY$ elliptical, and 4° wider than the circle at X and Y . Which ever it was, it is, I think, worth preserving,

preserving, as I do not know we have any account of such another, unless what Dr. Halley, in Philosophical Transactions, N^o 278. calls two arches of circles touching the halo at top and bottom, can be supposed to be imperfect parts of an elliptic halo not wholly seen.

With all due respect, I remain,

S I R,

Your humble servant,

Lyndon, March 3, 1760.

T. Barker.

III. *An Account of a Meteor seen in New England, and of a Whirlwind felt in that Country: In a Letter to the Rev. Tho. Birch, D. D. Secretary to the Royal Society, from Mr. John Winthrop, Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge in New England.*

Reverend Sir,

Read Jan. 15, 1761. **I** Am extremely obliged to the Royal Society, for their favourable acceptance of my paper on our late great earthquake; and to you, Sir, for the very polite manner, in which you were pleased to inform me thereof. I wish I were able to communicate any thing worthy the attention of so illustrious a body. But no such thing occurs at present; unless you should be of opinion, that the