XV.—*Description of an Aurora Borealis, seen at Biggins, near Kirkby Lonsdale, November 1st*, 1847. By William Sturgeon, Esq.

(Read December 7th, 1847.)

On Monday night, November 1st, I had a fine view of the Aurora Borealis, from this village. It consisted of an immense horizontal range, perhaps extending 140°, of streamers which shot their soft light slowly upwards, from a segment of fog, (it could hardly be called a cloud,) which was illuminated on its upper edge, and occasionally, in every part of it. The streamers were well defined, broad, but not lofty. The light of which they were composed was unusually soft and pleasing to the eye. Above the streamers, and sometimes amongst them, there appeared a crimson light, hovering in the sky. It had no appearance of being an *original* light, but looked more like the red component from a decomposition of the natural

white light. The stars were seen through it, though they were not so brilliant as during its absence. I have every reason to think that not only the various tints that are sometimes seen in the Aurora, but also some other of its characteristics, are the effects of refraction and reflection of the original auroral light; or in other words, that they are *secondary* effects.

Sturgeon, William. 1848. "Description of an Aurora Borealis, Seen at Biggins, Near Kirby Lonsdale, November 1st, !847." *Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester* 8, 397–398.

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