

the Comet had frequently to be watched for between banks of dark cumulus clouds, and at times when few stars could be seen. The night of the 28th of January was the most favorable, the sky was clear and brilliant with stars; the penetrating light of the Comet on that evening shewed itself in the twilight a few minutes after the star Fomalhaut, and a few minutes before α and β Grus. It had a fine planetary nucleus, with a bushy tail, very little curved, about 14° in length. From this date it diminished in appearance as if moving slowly off into space, and on the 4th of February was much fainter, with a tail only 4° in length. On the 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th February, it was only seen with the telescope, the moon being near full, and the nights clear and moonlight. The 14th was favorable, for three days previous the weather had been close and sultry, but at 5 p.m. on that day a heavy shower of rain fell which rendered the atmosphere very transparent. The Comet had decreased much in size—the nucleus had lost its planetary appearance, and the tail was not more than $1\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ in length. It was also seen distinctly on the 1st and 3rd of March, after which the moon's light again interfered.

APPARENT POSITIONS OF COMET 1, 1865:—

		Mean Time		R. A.		N. P. Distance	
		h.	m.	h.	m.	°	'
January	19.—	8	35	20	41	125	07
„	20.—	8	30	20	47	127	15
„	22.—	9	00	21	00	130	30
„	23.—	8	30	21	06	132	12
„	24.—	9	30	21	14	133	45
„	26.—	9	45	21	26	136	22
„	28.—	9	00	21	40	138	22
„	31.—	9	15	21	58	140	15
February	3.—	8	40	22	14	141	30
„	4.—	8	45	22	20	142	15
„	7.—	8	30	22	36	143	22
„	8.—	8	45	22	41	143	45
„	9.—	8	20	22	47	144	12
„	10.—	9	00	22	56	144	28
„	12.—	8	20	23	02	144	40
„	13.—	10	5	23	8	144	55
„	14.—	8	15	23	12	145	00

From the above records it will be seen that the Comet from its first appearance on January 17th in Capricornus passed through the Constellation Microscopium, and when last seen on the 3rd of March, it was near to the extreme point of Grus.

SOME FURTHER NOTES ON η ARGUS.

[Continued from the Monthly Notices of June, 1863.]

This appears a suitable opportunity for continuing some Notes on the variable Star η Argus and the surrounding Nebula. I was glad to notice the communication on this

subject to the Royal Astronomical Society, by E. B. Powell, Esq., of Madras, published in their Monthly Notices, and wish that he had entered more fully into the discussion of the continued changes which are constantly taking place in the surrounding Nebula of η Argus.

I have taken my starting point from the Cape observations, and the quotation from Sir J. Herschel's description, given in my former notes, has always accorded with the conception of my own mind—every time I observe the object I am more convinced that the whole Nebula surrounding η Argus is breaking up into stars.

I have previously described the so-called dark space as resembling in shape a clearly-defined "crooked billet." It now assumes a very different form, and it is singular that Sir J. Herschel, who describes κ Crux in glowing colors, as "like a rich piece of jewellery," should be silent as to the colors of the stars around η Argus. In my previous notes, I mentioned many of them as being of a ruddy color, but now they are of decided colors, *blue*, *green*, and *red*, the two former predominating. If the telescope is turned from one object to the other, it will be seen that, although Sir John has not overdrawn the beauty of κ Crux, the object η Argus is now much more superb— η standing out sharp and clear, amidst a large field of rich-colored gems, with only a very small patch of nebulous matter seen under the telescope. I have a note, made this month, while looking after the Comet, during the period of Full Moon, as follows:—"The position of η Argus was distinctly seen with the naked eye by the white light which surrounded it, although the Star η could not be seen as a point, nor could the position of Nebicula major, Nebicula minor, the Via lactea, or any other Nebula be seen at the time. This appears plain proof that the objects composing the Nebula around η Argus, are now of a larger character, and more refulgent than nebulous matter in general."



1865. "Some further remarks on n Argus." *Papers and proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania* 23-24.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/38535>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/334661>

Holding Institution

American Museum of Natural History Library

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.