

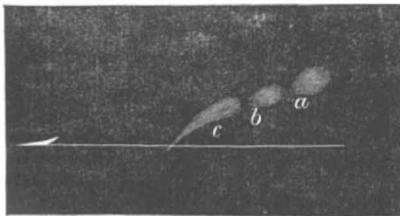
regard this specimen merely as a "sport" or *lusus naturæ*, possessed rather of a pathological than of a strictly anthropological interest. Certainly isolated cases of hairy persons, and even of hairy families, are not unknown to science. Several were figured in a recent number of the Berlin *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*, and, if I remember, both Crawford ("Journal of an Embassy to Ava") and Col. Yule ("Mission to the Court of Ava") speak of a hairy family resident for two or three generations at the Burmese capital. This family is reported to have come originally from the interior of the Lao country, and in the same region we are now told that little Krao and her parents, also hairy people, were found last year by the well-known eastern explorer, Mr. Carl Bock. Soon after their capture, the father appears to have died of cholera, while the mother was detained at Bangkok by the Siamese Government, so that Krao alone could be brought to England. But before his death a photograph of the father was taken by Mr. Bock, who describes him as "completely covered with a thick hairy coat, exactly like that of the anthropoid apes. On his face not only had he a heavy, bushy beard and whiskers, similar in every respect to the hairy family at the court of the King of Burmah, who also came from the same region as that in which Krao and her father were found; but every part was thoroughly enveloped in hair. The long arms and the rounded stomach also proclaimed his close alliance to the monkey-form, while his power of speech and his intelligence were so far developed that before his death he was able to utter a few words in Malay."

Assuming the accuracy of these statements, and of this description, little Krao, of course, at once acquires exceptional scientific importance. She would at all events be a living proof of the presence of a hairy race in Further India, a region at present mainly occupied by almost hairless Mongoloid peoples. From these races the large straight eyes would also detach the Krao type, and point to a possible connection with the hairy, straight-eyed Aino tribes still surviving in Yesso and Sakhalin, and formerly widely diffused over Japan and the opposite mainland.¹

A. H. KEANE

FIGURE OF THE NUCLEUS OF THE BRIGHT COMET OF 1882 (GOULD)²

ALTHOUGH this comet presented a beautiful spectacle, when seen with the naked eye, I have been disappointed at the small amount of work which I have been able to do in the way of accurate observation. I give herewith the only two good sketches which I have been able to make. The aperture employed was 15 inches, and the power was 145 diameters.



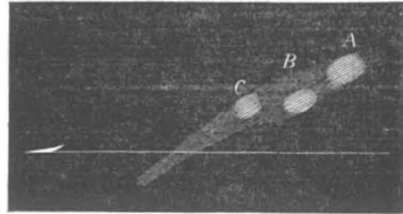
1882, October 13.

1882, October 13.—(See the figure.) The nucleus is curved as in the drawing. It consists of three masses. I am sure of a break at *a*; tolerably sure of the break at *b*, and I suspect a break at *c*, but I am not certain of it.

¹ See my paper on "Aino Ethnology" in *NATURE*, vol. xxvi. p. 524.
² Paper by Prof. Edward S. Holden, in the *American Journal of Science and Arts*.

1882, October 14.—The night is very poor. (In general the appearances of last night are confirmed.) The nucleus is about 1' long.

1882, October 17.—(See the figure.) There are three masses, plainly separated. *B* is farther north than the line *A-C* by 3–4". There is a dark division between each pair of masses. *B* and *C* are nearly in the parallel.



1882, October 17.

The brush of light from the mass *A* toward the east, comes from the south side of *A*, as it is drawn. From the W. end of *A* to the E. end of the brush of light, is about 15".

1882, October 18.—The dark space between *A* and *B* is about 10"; it is as wide as *A* itself, and wider than on October 17. *C* is certainly seen as a separate mass; *A* and *B* are bright and stellar in appearance, more so than on October 17. *C* is, however, fainter than then. The dark axis of the tail extends quite up to the coma.

1882, October 19.—Cloudy. The nucleus is seen as before. *A* and *B* are seen, as also the dark space between them. *C* is not seen, but this is probably on account of the unsteady air.

I regret that my opportunity did not allow me to make any further sketches of value.

Washburn Observatory, University of Wisconsin,
Madison, November 3, 1882

NOTES

THE office of Director of the Geological Survey of Scotland, vacant by the promotion of Mr. Geikie to be Director-General, has been filled up by the appointment of Mr. H. H. Howell, District Surveyor of the Geological Survey of Scotland during the earlier years of its progress, but who since the separation of the Scottish branch of the establishment in 1867, has been continuously employed in England, where he has personally surveyed large tracts of the northern counties, and where for some years past he has had the direct personal supervision of the whole of the field-work in that district. He will not be able to enter fully on his duties in Scotland until the area now under his charge in the north of England has been completely surveyed. The promotion of Mr. Howell having caused a vacancy in the rank of District Surveyor, Mr. W. Whitaker has been appointed to the post. This geologist is well known for his detailed surveys of the Tertiary deposits of the London basin. He is at present engaged in the survey of Norfolk.

THE United States Transit of Venus expedition, under Prof. Newcomb, arrived at Plymouth on Sunday as passengers by the Union Steamship Company's steamer *Moor*, from Cape Town. They report that their observations were made at Wellington, fifty-eight miles from Cape Town, under extremely favourable conditions, two good observations of internal contact and 236 photographs being obtained, of which more than 200 can be measured.

THE annual general meeting of the Association for the Improvement of Geometrical Teaching will be held, through the kindness of the Council, at University College, Gower Street, on Wednesday, the 17th instant, at 11 a.m. In addition to the usual routine business, the president (R. B. Hayward, F.R.S.)