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**THE TALE OF THE
TAIL OF THE COMET**

SIGHTED BY PROFESSOR SWEZEY
IN EASTERN SKY.

WILL IT HIT NEBRASKA?

No Danger Say Scientists—Historical
Comet—Will Come Within 15,000,
000 Miles of the Earth—Can
Put Tail in Trunk.

Halley's comet was observed by Prof. G. D. Swezey at the university Wednesday morning. The periodic visitor was sighted through the four-inch telescope, a small tail being visible with this instrument. The comet rises at about 4 o'clock in the morning and the best time to look for it is about 4:30 or 4:45, as by that time the comet has risen above the dense atmosphere near the horizon which otherwise would refract many of the rays.

Professor Swezey thought that he was able to make out the comet with the naked eye. He looked along the telescope and discerned a speck of light which he took for the comet. He says that it can be seen with a telescope or an opera glass. Through such an instrument the comet will appear like a rather fuzzy and vague star. The comet is almost due east and about ten degrees, or one-eighteenth of the distance across the horizon above the skyline.

Recurring Periods.

The intense interest in Halley's comet is not due to brilliancy, and is only partially due to the fact that the earth will pass directly through the tail of the comet, while the distance of the earth from the head will be as to the universe but as the breadth of a hair. The chief scientific interest lies in the fact that this comet is one of recurring periods, returning to the earth at intervals of a little over seventy-five years. For instance, its annual recurrence was in 1378, 1456, 1531, 1607, 1682, 1758, and so on. Edmund Halley discovered this in 1682, saying that if the comet returned in 1758, posterity must admit that an Englishman had discovered the comet's travel by the law of gravitation, in either parabolas, hyperbolas or ellipses. Most comets follow the two first geometrical figures, but Halley's comet was the apt one for purposes of astronomical proof because its orbit is that of an ellipse with the earth and sun near the swinging point.

Identified With History.

Few comets have been so bound up with human history. At intervals of almost regular recurrence, it has flared the skies, a celestial sentinel since the days when man knelt down before wood and stone, since even that earlier age when the prehistoric ape-man shrunk from its beams and cowered in its caves while the mammoths and saurians made night hideous with the cries of fear. It hung over Rome in 11 B. C., when Agrippa lay on the death bed, while its next appearance is chronicled with wailings from Josephus who sees predicted therein the fall of the city of God, Jerusalem.

Attila looked with fear at the heavenly portent as he waited for the armies to move to conflict in the battle of Chalons when the "Scourge of God," the terrible Hun warrior who nearly set civilization back a thousand years was crushed. Matilda, Duchess of Normandy, and the first Norman queen of England, gives us a picture of the comet on the tapestry which she emblazoned of the triumph, making it more than probable that the Saxon hosts of Harold may have been filled with fear at the sight, a manifestation of the hand of God which was soon to punish the English leader for his perjury. The Turk's conquest of Constantinople, the founding of Jamestown and the great uprising when Pechanough attempted to wipe out the militant colony in the Jamestown massacre was presaged by the appearance of another comet which but for the early date might have been taken for the one of great history.

When the earth passes through the streamer of gas on May 18, the comet

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FARQUHAR

is distant but 15,000,000 miles. The orbits of the two bodies intersect at an angle of about 15 degrees, like the spokes of a wheel. The point of intersection, the hub, will be reached by the comet about eight days after the earth has passed that point. But the influence of gravity is strong and all compelling. Might not the near approach of the earth, backed as it is with all the potential pulling energy of the solar system, draw the comet out of its customary orbit and bring it near enough to the earth to cause a catastrophe. It need only strike the earth's atmosphere to induce such a degree of heat that all living things would perish, while to strike the earth itself would mean the long prophesied end of the world.

Such an event is far from probable, however. It has been estimated by competent astronomers that the chances of a collision between such bodies is about once in 2,000,000 years.

COMPANY H WINS.

Annual Competitive Drill Held at State Farm Yesterday.

Yesterday the annual competitive drill between the five companies of the second battalion was held at the state farm. The drill was close, but company H won by a few points. The drill resulted as follows: Company H, first; company G, second; company E, third; company F, fourth; company L, fifth. The individual competitive drill resulted in victory for two men of company H. Following the drill, the prizes were presented by Chancellor Avery.

For the past three years company H has won first in the annual "compet." This year all the prizes were won by this company, which was a duplication of the feat they performed last year.

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