

Elston near Newark, March 7.

I cannot but impart to you a most strange Phenomenon, which happen'd yesterday, being Tuesday the 6th instant, a little past Seven in the Evening. Coming home to my House from Newark, I observ'd in the North-West a long and broad Stream of Light, issuing out of a darkish Cloud, (betwixt twenty and twenty five Degrees of the Horizon North-East as near as I can guess) like to the Beams of the Sun setting in a drizzling Evening the Stream pointing directly towards the Zenith. I was somewhat amazed at it, considering the Sun had been then more than an Hour set, and the Moon's Rising not being till the Morning. Presently after, some other Streams issued out of another Cloud, near to the former, with a very unusual Light, and with Variety of Colours, black, blue, Flame-Colour, yellow, &c. and so more and more, till all that Part of the Heavens was overspread. During this whole time, never were seen such Contentions (as it were) as betwixt these Meteors; being all in Confusion, and darting one against another, with an incredible Force and Swiftmess, for about an Hour and a half. Thro' all that Region of Air where this Confusion and Strife/ (for I can term it nothing else) was, the Stars appear'd clear as tho' a thin bright Smoak, or as the Sun sometimes thro' a thin bright Cloud. The other Part of the Heaven toward the North-East and South-East was very clear, the Stars bright and twinkling as in a Winter's cold Night when there is no Moon. About Nine at Night these Meteors (if I may so call them) in a great Measure disappear'd, but not quite; some faint Sort of Contentions (as it were) were still perceived: And about Ten of the Clock they broke out again with a fresh Violence in the same manner as before, and so continued till about half an Hour past Eleven. About Twelve a bright Globular Body appeared, as big as, and like the Sun at his Rising, but not quite so clear. Indeed it was the most astonishing Sight I ever yet beheld. During this time, the Light was such, that I my-self (tho' now almost sixty Years of Age) and another Clergyman did read several Titles of the Books in the Bible, without any Use of Art. The Night was calm, not so much as a Breath of Wind was perceiv'd. It began, according to my Opinion, in the North-West, and so drew round to the South-East. It was observ'd by a thousand People, not without the greatest Wonder, and with strange Apprehensions; some looking for the Day of Judgment, others as the Presages of future Events and Calamities, &c.

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