

LVI. *An Extract of a Letter from Abbé De la Caille, F. R. S. and Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, to Matthew Maty, M. D. and F. R. S.*

Paris, Feb. 18, 1760.

Read March 6, 1760. I venture to send you some of my observations on the present comet, because bad weather may have prevented it from being seen in England.

|         | Equal time.                            | Longitude.                             | North latitude.                        |
|---------|--|--|--|
|         | <sup>h</sup> <sup>'</sup> <sup>"</sup> | <sup>°</sup> <sup>'</sup> <sup>"</sup> | <sup>°</sup> <sup>'</sup> <sup>"</sup> |
| Feb. 8. | 9 29 28                                | Ω 20 17 22                             | 3 26 42                                |
| 9.      | 8 48 50                                | 18 49 18                               | 4. 46 28                               |
| 11.     | 7 22 35                                | 16 5 3                                 | 7 14 50                                |
| 13.     | 7 47 4                                 | 14 43 21                               | 8 24 18                                |
| 14.     | 6 41 0                                 | 12 20 18                               | 10 30 9                                |

These observations, together with another made at Marfeilles, (on the first day) at 9<sup>h</sup> 55' 38" equal time, when the longitude of the comet was found in Ω 23° 29' 46", and its north latitude 31' 20", have enabled me to compute the elements of its orbit. Its motion is direct. The ascending node is in Ω 19° 42' 0", and the place of the perihelion in 8 26° 41' 22". The inclination of the orbit is 80° 51' 30", and the distance of the perihelion  $\frac{85248}{100000}$  of the radius of the orbit of the earth. The comet passed the perihelion Nov. 25, 1759, at 20<sup>h</sup> 55', mean time, at Paris. These computations will be further improved by the observations I still hope to make; but they are sufficient to find the comet's place in the heavens.

VOL. LI.

4 N

LVII. Ex-