

no evidence which will warrant our considering that any real departure from the mean form exists.

“The following conclusion is not without its importance: It is impossible to place any dependence on a figure deduced from neighbouring arcs, even within their own limits, as considerable deviations may be caused by the attraction of small masses favourably situated; and the only figure of any geodesical or astronomical importance is that determined as usual from the consideration of a considerable number of arcs situated in various circumstances as regards sources of probable local disturbances.”

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*Extract of a Letter from M. Schwabe to Mr. Carrington.*

(Translated freely.)

“In the address of the President, contained in your *Monthly Notices*, the question is inadvertently asked, of what led me originally to undertake observations of the sun. It was in consequence of a representation of my old and valued friend Harding of Göttingen, who wrote to me that there was a great want of physical observations of the sun, that the subject presented an almost unworked field, and that labour therein might be rewarded by the discovery of a planet interior to *Mercury*. The communications of Harding and of a friend in Berlin led me also to inquire into the rotation of the sun, in which I found some difficulty from the instability of the spots. Nevertheless, I convinced myself that the opinion of Schroeter, that the spots had an independent motion, was unfounded, and that the apparent movement was attributable rather to the enlarging of one side and the filling in of the other side of a nuclear spot, whereby the estimated centre was shifted. My enumerations, however, early led me to notice a tolerably regular increase and decrease in the number of the spots, so that I may compare myself to Saul, who went out to seek his father's asses, and found a kingdom.”

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*Report of the Syndicate appointed to visit the Observatory of Cambridge (May 30, 1857).*

We extract the following passages from this Report:—

“The transit observations in the year 1856 amounted to 1865, and the circle observations to 1121.

“The total number of comparisons in R.A. (with the Northumberland equatoreal), is 695, and of those in N.P.D. 585.