

Hardwick Personal,

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Sturford,

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Oct. 11. 1858.

Dear Sir,

I think the idea contained in your favour is well worthy of consideration, and at any rate ought to be entertained as in part the cause of the curvature in the Comets' Tail - it is obvious, as you have very clearly pointed out, that some part of the curve, at least, is due to ~~that~~ cause - at the same time it is so complicated with the probable effect of a resisting medium as to render the solution of the problem less satisfactory than might be wished. For though the existence of such a medium need not, as you observe, be assumed to account for the curve, it is indicated, as you are probably aware, by the diminished period of Puck's Comet, - as well as by the comparative density of the two sides of the tails of larger Comets - so that still, if it does exist, it must add to the curvature of the tail, it would be difficult to discriminate how much of that phenomenon was due to the