

I fear to see a lovely table-screen of my wife's painting, as it will be going off to its destination, but you are sure to find her active in some good & beautiful work or other. The 3<sup>d</sup> Edit. & Col. Birds are stuck side by side in the mud - *par subile patrum* - I cordially wish either or both were out of my way. -

Your friend Lieut. Burton proves a very pleasant correspondent. I was sorry to hear this morning that he is out of health. If you see the Astor. Register you may have noticed how some of his silver-or-glass had been rivaling & in some respects outstripping one of A. Clark's Greek object-glasses. - Berthou (not Burton) is coming "to the fore" with an improved Equatorial stand - & I think Browning may ultimately regret the pertinacity with which he has stuck to his own line. I remonstrated with him about his expensiveness once, a good while ago, in vain. He has been very kind & generous to me, and I should not wish any diminution of his prosperity - but I cannot think he has taken due care to avoid it.

My particular friend S Orionis is gone into retirement. Mr. Kunt says she hails now from No. 13½,

and her movements rather puzzle me. I hoped at one time that I had met with something remarkable among her neighbours - but I believe I was, like suspicious persons in general, in the wrong. - I have had a fine view of the green Gasometer in Orion, through my little spectroscopic rigger up as an eyepiece. It was a lovely sight to see the stationary spectrum of Nitrogen or whatever gas it may be, ~~the~~ transferred by 2 brilliant streaks at right angles, of vivid colour - traversing it rapidly - over the spectrum of the Trapezium. the other of the 2 or 3 bright stars S. of the body of the nebula. This is about the most of my "seeings" - I got Neptune once, but felt much the inferior light as compared with what my amusing good-humoured friend Birmingham calls "the Great Grubb" - Some kind person of the F. R. S. - I can't think who, unless it may be Huygens or Hind, has sent me the correspondence about the Melbourne Reflector. The which is very queer. And - as usual - all the story is not told. However, I am sure they made a mistake in not trying glass instead of metal. - I have never had simple A.G. sent from W. Thomas yet. I hope he knows his