

nebulosity, I attacked Uranus without much hope in my old insensitive eye, last Friday night, being - for a wonder of wonders - fine. And, sure enough! I suspected a minute point Nf. the fine blue disc! It was the most evanescent thing alive - but still the suspicion would return - & always in the same place - & with 2 eyepieces. Next morning I got at Meath's Ephemeris, AND sure enough I had been "within bounding distance" of Titania on Oberon - but I believe it was the former. Little did I even imagine or suspect that I should be permitted to see one of these objects with an instrument of my own - & I could not but feel very grateful for it. It shews too that my old & somewhat dull eye is not yet past work.

Now, in consequence of all this, I write to Ward to ask if I sh<sup>d</sup>. make a communication out of ~~the~~ this for your next meeting - & I have this morning received his consent, so, if you think well of it, such is my intention. I will try (of course I shall!) to catch my evanescent

dream-like Titania again - but here comes (to say nothing of volumes of clouds) old Luna poking her horns at me & saying "I'll hinder you, old master, at any rate till after that there meeting."

Ward observes that ~~it~~ is now much better placed than in 1830 - which I suppose was the date of H's dictum about the Sat<sup>n</sup> - or of Sm's failure.

Red star gathering goes on - but nothing conspicuous or very lovely.

Another very distinct & distant matter. My wish of the 2 last nights, the Rev. Sir G. Cornwall Bart. (you may recollect one having brought accidentally a little book to Hardwick, which a former owner had begged to be restored to that family, & thro' your kindness it was) - well, the said Sir G. C. is the representative I find of the Cotton family, one of whom gave a most valuable collection of Mss to the nation. The nation in return purchased for the family some landed property, part of which is still held by Sir G. C. - & a Trusteeship of the British Museum (to which the Mss. were transferred) was also to be held in the family. Now do you think such a claim, long in abeyance, if even acted upon, could be resisted? ~~And~~ if so, who w<sup>d</sup> be the parties to attack upon the subject?