

a very charming fellow & I think has a bright  
astronomical future before him. I have just  
rec<sup>d</sup>. Holden's beautiful Orion Neb. - but have  
scarcely looked at it - & the Washburn Obs<sup>er</sup>.  
containing some fresh Red Stars - they are not ex-  
hausted - but one has to beware of personal co-  
lour-equation. I hope Birmingham will extend  
& weed out his Catalogue. Schiaparelli was so  
very kind as to send me a beautiful drawing  
of the Comet - ~~sent~~ with description - from which  
I could have quoted much with the greatest advan-  
tage to the RAS - but as he gave me no au-  
thority, & might possibly intend to send a com-  
munication himself, I kept mum. - He  
will I think surprise us yet - & I dare say  
there will be a fight over Mars. I asked him  
whether such a speculation as mine which shows  
Encke's division would reach his Canals - he said  
he thought it would the larger ones, but not the  
geminations. - I had Encke so plain one  
night this season that I not only held him  
fast - in best moments, - but saw that he  
made an unequal division of that ring. Es-  
pin saw 5<sup>th</sup> in Trapezio easily enough, which

is a puzzle to me. - You will see a signed review  
of mine (of Lidger's lectures) in "Nature" - they  
asked me for my name to it, which I had no  
ground to refuse, though it is not to my taste -  
I love to be more quiet - and I would not give  
it at any time when it might be likely to lead  
to what I so cordially dislike - paper-stripping.  
I suppose Nature may wish to smother  
knowledge - not a very unlikely thing, though  
R.A.P. goes on gallantly enough - but he has  
a queerish team I fancy. - My telescope  
roof is all ~~top~~ pieces - no wonder after long rough  
wear, exhibiting it to an honourable cremation  
when defunct - battens started, canvas rent &  
forn away &c. &c. got the old instrument holding  
it, over favourly. I'll put on another roof  
with 2 pair of opposite shutters, not only saving  
time in turning, but, as the one side rises more  
steeply than the other, giving relief in position,  
where now it cramps the head awkwardly. There  
was a bright thought! - My little S Orionis  
(my only discovery worth the name) has faded  
down to insignificance. Espin examined all  
my observations, which I was astonished to find  
amounted to 80, & found it quite possible to get  
a good curve - but I do not recollect what it was.