ASTRONOMISCHE NACHRICHTEN.

N^o. 383.

Auszug aus einem Schreiben des Herrn Majors *Sabine* an den Herrn Hofrath *Gauss*.

London 1839. Junius 4.

It may be agreeable to you to hear more details than may have reached you of the preparations we are making to extend magnetic researches. This naval expedition is advancing rapidly and will be ready for sea early in August though they will probably not sail till late in that month. There are two ships of equal size, similar in size, fitting and equipment to those formerly employed in Arctic discoveries. They are to make their head quarters at Van Diemen's Land and to employ three years in completing maps of the magnetic lines in all accessible parts of the middle and high latitudes of the southern ocean. They take also with them the instruments for a fixed magnetical observatory, to be established at Van Diemen's Land under the superintendence of Captain *Ross*, commander of the expedition and to have its observing staff furnished from the ships. They are also provided with a second set of fixed Observatory instruments to remain on ship board, and to be set up on shore wherever opportunities may make it desirable. Three other fixed observatories are in preparation to be supplied with an observing staff from the Artillery Corps and an excellent selection has been made of three Officers to conduct them, full of zeal intelligence and interest in the subject. These are also appointed for three years and are to observe the absolute values as well as the changes of the three elements. They will be furnished with three magnetometers; i. e. for the direction, horizontal and vertical force and with excellent dipping needles. These instruments will be ready on the first of July when the whole parties assemble in Dublin to receive them and to go through a course of practice under Mr. *Lloyds* direction. The observers and the instruments for St. Helena and the cape of Good Hope embark in the expedition and will be conveyed by it to their respective destinations. The 3^d Artillery Observatory is destined for

Montreal in Canada, and will proceed independently of the others. All will probably be in action early in the ensuing year.

The East India Company have shown a good disposition to cooperate. They have ordered equipments for seven fixed observatories precisely similar to those preparing for the Cape, Canada etc. Madras, Bombay and Leisda in the Himalaya range are spoken of as stations. Any suggestion of yours in regard to the disposal of the others, (of course within the territories of the Company) would be most acceptable.

We have done little or nothing yet in regard to continental cooperation, which is one of the most important points to be well considered and secured. It is Mr. *Lloyd's* purpose to visit you, I believe towards the end of July for the purpose of consulting with you both as to cooperation and as to the scheme of observation to be followed by each of the observatories. I deeply regret that I cannot hope to accompany him on this most interesting mission, which would also give me an opportunity, which I should most greatly value, of making your personal acquaintance. I have been named in conjunction with Colonel *Mudge* of the Engineers to proceed as commissioners to America for the purpose of settling, if it be possible, the long disputed question of boundary between the United States and the British possessions in North America. This appointment which at another time would be very agreeable to me (as it is now complimentary being wholly unsolicited) comes very inopportunately in a moment when I feel that much has been confided to me in regard to the preparations for a scientific undertaking, which if nothing occurs to mar its prospects, will form I am willing to think, a bright spot in the history of researches promoted by arrangement and cooperation.

Sabine.

Schreiben des Herrn Professors *v. Boguslawski*, Directors der Breslauer Sternwarte, an den Herausgeber.

Breslau 1839. August 2.

Meine Kränklichkeit in diesem Frühjahr hat die Beobachtungen auf eine unangenehme Art unterbrochen. Ich kann Ihnen nur 2 Sternbedeckungen mittheilen.

16r Bd.

1) 1839 Mai 2. 16^h 35' 22" 80 St. Zt. Austr. von (339) γ Sagittarii 5 Gr. am dunkeln Mondrande erfolgte plötzlich, und konnte scharf beobachtet werden. Die Zeit war aus den

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