VIII. Description of a singular phenomenon in a thunder-cloud

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We wanted also small portable tables, and these C. Didot has undertaken. I have begun an edition of Logarithms carried to six decimal places, like those given by myself and Lacaille in 1760, which were published by Marie in 1768, and reprinted four times afterwards, but still with more faults than the first time. We at length, however, have a permanent edition, which it will not be necessary to reprint every ten years with more errors than those before discovered.

M. Bogdanich, assistant at the observatory of Buda, has made, in several cities of Croatia, observations of great importance to Geography.

[To be concluded in the next Number.]

VIII. *Description of a singular Phenomenon in a Thunder-Cloud.* By L. C. LICHTENBERG *.

ON a summer's day, exceedingly hot and sultry, the barometer being at 27 inches seven lines, and Reaumur's thermometer at $22\frac{1}{2}$, there was formed, about three in the afternoon, to the north of Gotha, a dark thunder-cloud, having the appearance of rocks piled upon each other, and in shape almost like a mushroom. (Plate I. Fig. 1.) The magnificent spectacle exhibited by this immense mass floating in the blue expanse of the atmosphere excited my attention; and I soon observed, that, from the small part which represented the stem of the mushroom, there arose a fine bright vapour, which in a few moments formed a perfect ring around this part of the cloud. The ring seemed to be in violent agitation, by which it became always more enlarged, so that in the course of a minute it exceeded the greatest breadth of the upper part of the cloud. It then began to extend itself upwards and downwards, and in less than thirty seconds the whole cloud was enveloped in a transparent covering, (Fig. 2.) This phenomenon had scarcely continued a minute when the cloud began to extend itself, as if by a current of air forced from its interior, and to assume the form of a fan. It now lost its smooth rim, which terminated, as it were, in fringes,

* From *Magazin für das Neueste aus der Physik*, Vol. I.

and the whole acquired the form of a thunder-cloud. Some minutes after, black rainy clouds, formed of the vapour driven downwards, and of the remains of the covering, were collected below; and I expected every moment to see the first flash of lightning, which soon followed. A little rain fell at some distance, but within a quarter of an hour the cloud was so distended that it was soon lost in a thin mist. The same phenomenon, though not so striking, I have since seen in a great many other thunder-clouds, but inverted. Instead of a fine vapour being thrown out, and forming a covering, I saw white clouds sink down, spread themselves out like a veil over the arched part of the cloud, and disperse themselves in it. The reason why the vapour thrown out from the cloud here described formed a ring, was its singular form. The vapour, by being forced out on all sides, was so compressed that it could extend itself only edgeways, and afterwards diffuse itself round the cloud.

If this phenomenon be compared with the electric experiment where a ball of cotton, suspended by a silk thread, is introduced into a metal vessel of a cylindric form and sufficient width, and where the vessel is sometimes rendered electric and sometimes deprived of its electricity, the idea I mean to convey by this description will be readily conceived. I am of opinion that I can thereby prove that we might examine the electric state of the upper regions of the atmosphere, and even of the clouds, with accuracy, if the latter were observed more frequently than has hitherto been done, and were they employed as natural electrometers for this purpose.

IX. *Observations on the Elk.* By the late E. H. SMITH,
Physician *.

THE accounts hitherto published by Naturalists, of the Elk and the Moose, two very remarkable animals of the deer kind, are confused and unsatisfactory. Beside the misapprehensions which they contain relative to both animals, all the difficulties in the way of obtaining just notions con-

* From the *American Medical Repository*, Vol. II. No. 2.