Note on the Tail of the Comet 1865 I.

In Dr. F. Koerber's valuable inaugural-dissertation on Comet 1865 I the author draws attention to what he regards as an inconsistency between my statements and those of Messrs. Moesta and Ellery respecting the curvature of the tail of this comet. The view which the author takes is, however, founded on a misapprehension of the sense in which I employed the term western. I used it in the same sense as when speaking of a planet's western limb. The convex side of the tail was in fact that which preceded in right ascension and not that which faced the western point of the visible horizon. From this explanation it will be seen that my statement is perfectly consistent with that of Mr. Ellery on January 18 who remarked that the convexity was towards the south pole.

Windsor N. S. Wales 1887 August 15.

I have examined the original observations of the tail made on February 17, and have no reason to regard them as erroneous, because they appear to be inconsistent with observations made before and after that date. The position of the tail among the stars is carefully sketched on a chart in A. K. Johnston's Atlas of Astronomy, Hind's edition. The sudden increase in the apparent length of the tail is probably due to the withdrawal of the moon and an unusual clearness of the sky, two factors which have much to do with irregularities in the observed lengths of comets' tails.

I may here remark that the Windsor positions of the nucleus depend on observations made with an ordinary ring-micrometer on a telescope of only $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches aperture.

John Tebbutt.

Beobachtungen des Cometen 1887 IV (Barnard Mai 12)

angestellt am 6 Füßer der Sternwarte in Berlin (Ringmikr., Vergr. 49) von *H. Battermann*.

1887	M. Z. Berlin	$\Delta\alpha$	$\Delta\delta$	Vgl.	α app.	$\log p.A$	δ app.	$\log p.A$	Red. ad l. app.	*
Juni 16	11 ^h 55 ^m 27 ^s	+0 ^m 4 ^s 34	+ 2' 3" 3	8.8	16 ^h 19 ^m 55 ^s 18	9.068	— 5° 48' 2" 5	0.875	+2 ^s 06 + 3" 7	1
24	12 24 30	+0 8.73	— 1 32.6	4.4	16 38 3.74	9.281	— 0 35 41.4	0.850	+2.07 + 5.8	2
26.	11 29 2	—2 25.47	— 1 23.4	6.8	16 42 29.16	9.009	+ 0 29 39.0	0.844	+2.08 + 6.4	3

Juni 16. Comet mit Kern 10.11^m und dunstiger Hülle, nicht sehr schwach. — Juni 24. Comet nur geahnt, kaum zu beobachten. — Juni 26. Comet neblig, heute ziemlich gut sichtbar, mit schwacher Verdichtung.

Mittlere Oerter der Vergleichsterne für 1887.0.

*	α 1887.0	δ 1887.0	Autorität
1	16 ^h 19 ^m 48 ^s 78	— 5° 50' 9" 5	Lam ₃ 2192
2	16 37 52.94	— 0 34 14.6	$\frac{1}{3}$ (Lam ₁ 5281 + 2 Gött. 4636-7)
3	16 44 52.55	+ 0 30 56.0	BB.VI

Ring Micrometer Observations of Comet 1887 IV (Barnard May 12)

made at the Vanderbilt University Observatory, Nashville, Tenn., by *E. E. Barnard*.

1887	Nashv. M.T.	$\Delta\alpha$	$\Delta\delta$	Cp.	α app.	δ app.	Red. ad l. app.	*
July 8	10 ^h 36 ^m 53 ^s	—4 ^m 57 ^s 05	+ 2' 13" 9	4	—	—	+2 ^s 13 + 9" 4	1
9	9 17 45	+3 24.01	+ 1 22.0	3	—	—	+2.08 + 9.1	2
9	9 57 21	+4 19.31	—12 36.8	1	17 ^h 11 ^m 40 ^s 32	+5° 58' 35" 4	+2.10 + 9.4	3
9	10 14 18	—1 41.24	—13 41.1	4	17 11 41.17	+5 58 45.5	+2.12 + 9.5	4
9	10 19 57	+0 19.15	+ 0 16.6	3	17 11 42.81	+5 58 50.1	+2.12 + 9.6	5
11	12 0 22	+0 48.24	— 0 5.4	6.7	17 16 8.41	+6 33 3.7	+2.11 + 9.9	6
13	10 21 38	—7 52.18	—14 27.5	6	17 20 14.68	+7 1 13.6	+2.13 +10.6	7
13	10 21 38	—5 2.23	—18 2.0	6	—	—	+2.13 +10.7	8
14	10 31 31	—5 44.89	— 1 7.2	10.11	17 22 21.96	+7 14 34.1	+2.12 +10.8	7
15	9 59 14	+3 31.43	—15 26.3	8	17 24 25.24	+7 26 27.7	+2.11 +10.9	9
16	11 0 47	+0 18.20	— 0 42.0	14.12	—	—	+2.11 +11.2	10
19	9 41 39	—1 49.32	+14 43.2	6	17 32 42.40	+8 6 44.8	+2.14 +11.8	11
20	10 6 15	—1 40.67	— 1 48.1	4	—	—	+2.15 +12.0	12
26	13 3 18	+1 28.90	+14 26.5	8.7	17 47 10.15	+8 48 20.8	+2.12 +13.1	13
Aug. 10	9 36 55	+0 26.40	+ 9 14.7	9.6	—	—	+2.13 +14.4	14
11	9 37 44	+2 18.82	+ 6 51.5	8.10	—	—	+2.13 +14.5	14

The observations were made with the 6 in. Cooke Equatorial.