

266 *M. Abbadie, on the New Star in the Nebula of Orion.*

T	=	1857, September 30 <sup>o</sup> 85270 Berlin M.T.
$\pi$	=	250 <sup>o</sup> 21' 18".5
$\delta$	=	14 46 30.3
$i$	=	56 18 16.0
Log $q$	=	9.752190

Motion retrograde.

These elements have a distant resemblance to the elements of Comet III., 1790, and Comet I., 1825.

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*Note on the Star recently Discovered in the Trapezium of the Nebula of Orion.* By M. Abbadie.

(Letter to Mr. Carrington.)

“When writing on the 21st ult. to Admiral Manners, to thank him for getting the *Monthly Notices* sent to me, I informed him of the discovery of a ninth star in the trapezium of the nebula of *Orion*, made by M. Porro in Paris with his 52-centimètre refractor. I then called it the eighth star, having overlooked the star H discovered by Herschel (Sir John, I believe). I then invited other astronomers to search for and confirm the new discovery. Father Secchi has now made the following communication, which I translate from the extract of his journal, dated February 10, 1857:—

“‘Air excellent; the sixth star (H) of the trapezium is not visible, although the atmosphere is beautiful. Why? In place of it, I think I see a small star in the centre of the trapezium.’ The Roman astronomer then says that, like M. Porro, he found great difficulty in seeing the stars D” and D’. He takes the latter for the companion of H, which Sir J. South had already mentioned as a double star.

“I believe that there is in England no refractor with an aperture of 52 centimetres, or 19.2 old Parisian inches; but Father Secchi’s observation shows that good and relatively small refractors may, on chosen nights, show this very faint test-object. The position and distance of the star P have not yet been referred by measurement to one of its neighbours.

“Königsberg, Prussia, 1857, June 17.”

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*On the Variability of 30 Herculis.* By Josh. Baxendell, Esq.

In October and November 1855, 30 *Herculis* was almost invisible to the naked eye, even on the finest nights; and the mean