



Meteorological observations made at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, from the 20th to the 26th of Sept.

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Meteorological Observations made at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, from the 20th to the 26th of Sept. by T. FORSTER, Esq.

Sept. 20.—Warm day, with clear distances, *cumuli* of smallish form, with *cirri* above; and some *cirrocumulus* mixed. By sunset long and straight *cirrostrati* in horizon. Clear night with a few light clouds and falling stars: some moved almost horizontally and left small trains behind*.

Sept. 21.—Fair day, with a breeze; *cumulus* and *cumulostratus* with *cirri* and *cirrostratus* towards evening. The *cumuli* to day were well defined, and the air pleasant and warm like yesterday.

Sept. 22.—Showers very early; much cloud of *cumulostratus*, &c. through the day; sun out by times; *nimbi* towards evening.

Sept. 23.—Fair morning and a breeze; much *cumulus* and *cumulostratus*; *nimbi* formed again in different places, and showers finished the day with light gales of wind.

Sept. 24.—Still showery weather, rather cooler, and the sky generally clouded over, though there was not much rain fell. The evening was clear with a fine breeze, and I noticed some fine red tints in the clouds while riding at Langton.

Sept. 25.—Fine morning, smallish and well defined *cumuli*, with a stiff breeze below; the clouds increased after noon, obscured the sky, and the night became dark and windy.

Sept. 26.—Dark overcast morning, when the clouds broke the sun came out by times, and we had a shower; extensive and irregular masses of cloud followed. The evening was very fine; the *cirrus* above showed a fine red light, while some lower down were darkish; some *cumuli* still appeared at sunset, and the sky exhibited fine and various tints in different places: just above the set sun a fine yellow fading into an indéscribable but beautiful whitish colour; in an opposite part of the horizon a purplish hue appeared in the haze; near the zenith a rich clear light blue, fading into a greenish colour.

* Mr. Howard mentioned to me that these meteors usually happened, in his opinion, when there was *cirrostratus* in the atmosphere, although scanty and not so as to obscure much of the sky. I have generally noticed this to be the case, and frequently *cirrocumulus* too when the more brilliant kind happen. The very slanting, indeed almost horizontal, star which I noticed tonight, shot in a direction opposite to the wind below then blowing from the westward, and it seemed low in the atmosphere. This was a circumstance reconcilable with Mons. De Luc's hypothesis of the cause of these meteors, of which I have given an account in my *Researches about Atmospheric Phenomena*, p. 92. But the rapidity with which these stars move, seems almost an objection to the notion of their being caused by the retrograde motion of an elevated column of phosphoric gas, set on fire at the top, with the burning ball returning down the column. This seems often to be forcibly thrown along like ignited bodies projected by mechanical force; or as having acquired velocity by gravitation in falling from a great height.