

COMMUNICATION.

SINGULAR PHENOMENON.—On Tuesday evening, 28th Inst. near 10 o'clock, a large light arose in the east, resembling distant fire. The first thought of the spectators was that a building was burning at a great distance. It passed across the horizon, a little to the north of west, nearly vertical, and settled down, apparently to the earth. It was, in width, two or three times that of the rainbow. By looking steadfastly upon it, it had the appearance of a current of vapour, passing as swiftly as a cloud, in its most rapid motion. It continued about an hour, and gradually diminished from east to west. It is hoped, we shall have some more particulars of this extraordinary appearance, by some one, who better understands the cause, than the writer of this. W.

Windham Co. Aug. 1827.

☞ The phenomenon described above was noticed in Albany, New-York and Philadelphia. Its first appearance at the latter place was nearly an hour later than in our hemisphere, but continued visible about the same length of time. The several accounts which we have seen of this *new light*, agree as to its appearance and motion, but are silent as to the cause of it. It is very correctly described in the following article from the *New-Haven (Con.) Chronicle*.

Singular Phenomenon.—A very brilliant Aurora was visible on Tuesday evening last, and witnessed by many of our citizens. It appeared at first between the hours of 9 and 10, as a cloud of light, lying on the northern horizon, with a slight corona investing its whole border. This arch of light gradually arose above the radiations from the northern horizon, and moved as a separate belt towards the south, till it became nearly vertical in its centre, and its terminating pillars rested in the eastern and western points of the horizon. The western part of the arch arose in one broad beam of radiations which became more faint and diffuse as the eye traced the arch upwards to the vertical point: thence again towards the eastern horizon, the appearance was reversed, except the column of radiations was less luminous than at the west. The apparent direction of the rays composing this magnificent arch, was towards the vertical point in the heavens, allowing that point to have been a few degrees south of the arch itself. Various interesting changes in its appearance transpired in its gradual elevation while it stood over us. The radiations, at times most distinct, seemed again to subside into a clear transparent ground of light. It was remarkable that the part of the arch over us had a tremulous undulatory motion in which were clearly seen waves of light and shade passing in rapid succession from the East to the West. The motion was visible only a few minutes, but the arch remained with a few variations till nearly 11. A few minutes before 11 the eastern part disappeared, the central part became irregular and resembled a light fleecy vapor, as seen in the light of the moon, the lower part still remaining

but somewhat fainter in the west. In a few minutes it again brightened and formed a perfect arch, but less vivid and varied than before. At this time several branches shot forth on the south side like jets of white mist. We did not at first make any accurate observations to determine its exact locality with respect to the constellations. It passed from the north to the south of the Zenith. At 11 arose about its breadth (perhaps 4 or 5 degrees) south of the star Arcturus which was then setting, passing about the same distance south of the northern Crown and Harp, which was near the Zenith. When last viewed it was passing south over the Eagle and the Dolphin. During the whole, the eye could not but be attracted towards the unparalleled brightness of the column in the west.

There is a description of a similar appearance in 1807, in the records of the Connecticut Academy. But it is believed that nothing of equal splendor has occurred of this kind since the days of the revolution, when our venerable mothers saw the battles of our fathers foreboded by the marshalling of fiery chariots and horsemen in the air.