

“Astronomische Nachrichten” Dr. F. Hayn gives a table based on observations at Leipzig, and from this it appears that in representing the outline of the moon’s limb, account should be taken of the change of libration in longitude. Groups of residuals freed to some extent from the errors of the moon’s position are also given by F. Küstner (“Nine Occultations of the Pleiades,” Halle, 1880,) J. Peters (“Eight Occultations of the Pleiades,” Ast. Nach., No. 3,296), H. Battermann (“Berlin Publications,” 1902, Part 11), and others, but I am not aware that any tables have been published in which these results are arranged in order of position angle. Such tables seem to be wanted not so much to determine the actual radius at a single point as to give an answer to the question whether, in dealing with a large group of results, the variation of the radius can be regarded as subject to the law of errors. This law will hold if the moon’s limb is a perfect circle with a granulated surface or like a file. But if there are high tablelands and deep basins with nearly level floors, they will, if they are of large area, affect large groups of results in the same manner, and the law will not hold.

The table below is based upon the results given by Küstner and Battermann. Omitting bright limb observations and those which Battermann has marked as doubtful by placing the numbers in brackets, there remain 696 results. I have selected one quarter of these (174) as forming groups of large positive or large negative values. An elevation would be of positive sign and a depression negative.

Position Angle.	Residual.	Observations.
45 to 50 inclusive - -	- 0.64	11
77 to 88 „ - -	+ 0.58	14
90 to 96 „ - -	+ 1.17	21
104 to 114 „ - -	- 1.20	39
127 to 132 „ - -	+ 1.16	15
161 to 175 „ - -	- 1.86	11
226 to 230 „ - -	- 0.49	12
250 to 261 „ - -	+ 0.85	32
322 to 334 „ - -	- 0.90	19

Uplands, Cobham, Surrey.
8th May 1905.

A Cape Colony Meteorite.

By WALTER E. BESLEY, F.R.A.S.

On 1903, January 3, a meteorite fell at St. Mark’s, Kaffraria (lat. $32^{\circ} 3' S.$, long. $27^{\circ} 27' E.$). As complete proof by analysis of the authenticity of this object has only recently been arrived at, it has only now seemed desirable to place on record certain details of the fall which are available.

Apparently the earliest report of the occurrence to reach England was that contained in the following paragraph :—

“ A Celestial Phenomenon.—A striking phenomenon has been witnessed at Qamatipoort, St. Mark’s, Kaffraria, Cape Colony, writes our Capetown correspondent. One night at ten o’clock a sudden rumbling and hissing noise like that of a shell from a large gun attracted the attention of witnesses to the sky, where at a great height was seen a tremendous ball of fire falling towards the earth, and such was the rapidity with which it fell that it had the appearance of a burning gash in the sky.

“ It was accompanied by an appalling noise and lighted up the surroundings as if by electric light. As it struck the earth four successive explosions took place, casting four luminous balls in different directions.

“ The next day the place was found where the meteor had dropped. It had bored a hole about two feet wide and two feet deep in the ground. The meteor consisted of a large flat black stone.”—“Daily Mail,” 1903, February 19.

This was kept with a view to obtaining more complete facts of the case when opportunity arose.

Later in the same year the writer met Mr. O. A. Le Beau, a Member of the Association, who was about to start for Cape Town, and asked him, if possible, to make some inquiries. The following letter received by Mr. Le Beau, dated 1904, November 22, was the ultimate result :—

“ St. Mark’s, Kaffraria.

“ The Resident Magistrate of this district forwarded me your letter some time ago asking for particulars of a meteoric stone which fell on the Mission in January, 1903.

“ I shall be happy to send you a copy of the report when it comes from Prof. Cohen* in Vienna, to whom the stone has been sent for analysis. It fell at about 11.30 p.m. with a great glare of light and four explosions. One fragment—a large one I should think—went off at right angles in a southerly direction with a continued rumbling noise. Another is said to have gone towards the north. This one fell obliquely in a field, making a hole about two feet deep and being found on the farther edge of it. It is a black stone, very slightly fused on the surface, and on one side are a great number of lines radiating from the centre. Its weight is 30½ lbs.

“ I had it photographed in Cape Town, and it now belongs to the museum there, though at present on its travels to Europe.

“ E. L. COAKES,
“ Archdeacon.”

A sample of the stone has now been received for the British Museum collection.

* Prof. Cohen died on April 13 last.