

in our possession, and will admit of more accurate reduction than has yet been effected; while a more complete computation of the perturbations with the improved values for the masses of the disturbing planets must tend to diminish the uncertainty that at present exists with regard to the possible error of Bessel's determination of the date of next passage through perihelion. If this should fall about 1887, February 9, as he computed, we might expect that the comet would be detected in September previous in the constellation Monoceros; its intensity of light would gradually increase until its nearest approach to the earth (0.5) at the end of the year, when it might be a conspicuous naked eye object in Ursa Major, within 20° N.P.D., and possibly it would be observable till the following May. Subjoined are figures which will enable any reader who is interested in the matter to trace the comet's course more precisely, upon the above supposition as to perihelion passage.

	R.A.	N.P.D.	Distance from Earth.
1886, Oct. 2 ...	97°0	83°6	1°90
„ Nov. 1 ...	106°8	78°2	1°25
„ Dec. 1 ...	117°7	61°0	0°72
„ „ 21 ...	131°1	33°3	0°52
„ „ 31 ...	151°9	17°3	0°51
1887, Jan. 10 ...	216°8	10°5	0°55
„ „ 30 ...	272°3	23°2	0°69
„ March 1 ...	278°8	34°2	0°88
„ April 10 ...	265°4	41°4	0°95
„ May 10 ...	245°5	53°0	1°01

MINOR PLANET, No. 160.—A telegram to the Astronomer Royal, through the Smithsonian Institution, notifies the discovery of another small planet on February 25, in R.A. 10h. 16m. N.P.D. 75° 28'; eleventh magnitude.

THE BINARY STAR  $\omega$  LEONIS.—Dr. Doberck, of Col. Cooper's Observatory, Markree Castle, Sligo, publishes in *Ast. Nach.*, No. 2,078, provisional elements of this interesting star, viz., peri-astron passage, 1842.77; node, 151° 34'; node to peri-astron on the orbit, 122° 54'; inclination, 65° 22'; eccentricity, 0.5028; period of revolution, 107.62 years.

SCIENCE AND ART IN IRELAND

IN our number for February 17, we reprinted from the *Times* an article on the proposed action of the Government in connection with the Scientific Institutions in Dublin. That article contained the substance of Lord Sandon's letter which was forwarded both to his Grace the President of the Royal Dublin Society and to the President of the Royal Irish Academy. This letter was laid before the Irish Academy at their meeting of the 14th Feb., and was by them referred to the Council of the Academy. This latter body having in several meetings fully considered the whole subject, submitted to the Academy on Monday evening, the 28th Feb., the following Resolutions:—

“1. That the Royal Irish Academy is desirous of co-operating with Her Majesty's Government in the measures necessary for the establishment of a National Science and Art Museum in Dublin, provided that the independence and usefulness of the Academy be not injuriously affected by such measures.

“2. That, while we consent to the transfer of our Museum to the Government, we think that its arrangement, as well as the purchase of additions, should be done through the Academy.

“3. That, in thus assenting to the transfer of its Museum to the Government, the Academy also thinks that adequate provision should be made for the continued acquisition of Irish Antiquities, which may hereafter be discovered or offered for sale; and that the collection of the Academy, together with such other Irish antiquities as shall be added to it, should be for ever kept apart from Miscellaneous Art collections in the possession of the Government, and be permanently maintained as a Mu-

seum of our National Antiquities, no portion of its contents being ever removed from the City of Dublin.

“4. That, considering the position which the Academy has long held, and will continue to hold, as the first Scientific, Literary, and Antiquarian Society of the country, the proportional representation proposed to be given to it on the Board of Visitors (sect. 12 of Lord Sandon's letter), is altogether inadequate; and the Academy further think that no paid official of the Science and Art Department should be eligible to act as a representative on the Board.

“5. That, as the Academy is making a substantial concession in respect to its Museum, there should be provided in the yearly estimates, as laid before Parliament, instead of the several sums now annually voted, a sum of 2,000*l.*, to enable the Academy to discharge more completely its functions as a Scientific, Literary, and Antiquarian body, by making grants in aid of original research, by publishing the results of such research, by maintaining a library specially adapted to assist learned investigation, and by editing and printing ancient Irish Texts.

“6. That the Academy should be accountable, as at present, to her Majesty's Treasury, through the Irish Government, for the sum to be thus voted by Parliament, and should not be subject, in the conduct of its affairs, or the expenditure of its grants, to any control on the part of the Science and Art Department, or any of its officers.”

After some discussion the Academy adjourned to the 6th of March, when it is probable that the resolutions of the Council may be adopted by the Academy, and a deputation appointed to confer with her Majesty's Government on the subject.

The Council of the Royal Dublin Society have also, we understand, drawn up a report with resolutions, to be submitted to a special meeting of the Society which is to be held to-morrow.

We hope in our next number to be able to report the resolutions come to by both bodies, and in the meanwhile refrain from making any comments on the subject.

THE LOAN EXHIBITION OF SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS

A MEETING of the General Committee for this approaching Exhibition was held on Thursday last at the Science Schools, South Kensington Museum. The chair was taken by the Lord-President of the Council, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the Vice-President, Lord Sandon, M.P., sitting at his side. Many well-known representatives of science were present.

The Lord-President spoke as follows:—

“It gives me very great pleasure to meet you at the expiration of some twelve months since we first assembled to set in motion a plan for holding a scientific exhibition, and I am happy to be able to congratulate you upon the success which has attended your efforts. The exhibition promises to be the most brilliant one of the kind that has ever taken place in this country. Indeed, I doubt very much whether there has ever been any exhibition in England at all approaching in importance or merit the one which is to be held within the next few months; and I cannot refrain from tendering the thanks of her Majesty's Government to those gentlemen who by their exertions in bringing about this exhibition have contributed so much to the success which we hope will follow. We appreciate the efforts of those gentlemen the more because we know that, engaged as they are in various scientific pursuits, the time which they have devoted to this matter must have caused them considerable inconvenience, and only their love of science could have induced them to render the services which they have done for the carrying out of the object. It is also gratifying to find that this exhibition has met with such a large amount of favour in all parts of the Continent, and more especially