

RESULTS  
OF  
OBSERVATIONS OF THE FIXED STARS  
MADE WITH THE  
MERIDIAN CIRCLE  
AT THE  
GOVERNMENT OBSERVATORY, MADRAS  
IN THE YEARS 1871, 1872, AND 1873

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

THE LATE NORMAN ROBERT POGSON, C.I.E., F.R.A.S.

BY

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OFFICIATING GOVERNMENT ASTRONOMER AT MADRAS

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## INTRODUCTION.

The observations of fixed stars made with the Meridian Circle in the years 1871, 1872, and 1873 are given in this volume. They were made by the same two observers as before, C. Ragoonatha Chary and T. Moothoosawmy Pillay. The methods of reduction are exactly the same as those employed in the preceding years. The only change to which reference has to be made is with regard to the proper motions given in the tables of Mean Positions. These have, in the present volume, been taken from Auwers' *Neue Reduction der Bradley'schen Beobachtungen* except in a few cases which are indicated in the notes.

The publication of the present volume has been greatly delayed by the illness and death of the astronomer under whose care the observations were made. Robert Norman Pogson was already well known as an ardent and skilful astronomer when, in 1861, he arrived in Madras to take charge of the Government Observatory there. During the following thirty years he pursued his work with characteristic energy and success without taking leave for a single day. Hampered as he was in various ways, but specially as regards assistants and facilities for publication, the greater part of his observations unfortunately remain unpublished. Of his own personal work the most valuable, as it was the most laborious, was probably his *Atlas of Telescopic variable Stars* which was nearly completed when he laid it aside to take up the publication of the present work. It is to be hoped that his nephew, to whose care his papers on this subject have been entrusted, will find a means of completing and publishing the work at an early date.

Mr. Pogson's interest in astronomy never flagged and even after the doctors had told him that he had only a short time to live he devoted all the little strength he had to pushing on his work and so arranging it that others might take it up. By his death astronomy lost one of her most devoted disciples—an observer of remarkable skill and one whose knowledge was full and accurate—while those who knew him well lost a true friend on whom they could always depend and one ever willing to help them to master what had been to him a life-long study and a life-long source of pleasure.

At the time of his death only 24 pages of this volume were in type, but most of the MS. for 1871 was nearly ready for the press. In continuing the work I have followed as nearly as I could on the old lines, retaining all the checks which Mr. Pogson had found necessary and the need of which has now been amply confirmed by my own experience.

In addition to the meridian observations dealt with in this volume there were made during the years 1871 and 1872, 10 meridian observations of the Sun, 76 of the Moon, 43 of Mars, and 41 of asteroids.

C. M. S.