

Our Graham is amongst us; to him we are indebted for the instruments with which results thus important have been obtained, and also for the mode of using them, through which the maximum of accuracy has been acquired. One of them was made with his own hands, the other under his direction; and it is not too much to say, that the disciple has shewn himself worthy of his master. The benefits which Edward Troughton has conferred on science, are too well known to need enumeration. His Majesty the King of Denmark, not insensible to the importance of science, and feeling that for much of the accuracy to which astronomy and navigation have arrived, we are indebted to the genius of our revered member, has recently acknowledged his gratitude to him, by the presentation of his gold medal, inscribed with the word "MERITO." Never was inscription more appropriate. May he live long to enjoy this token of respect! alike honourable to himself and to the princely feelings of its royal donor.

On looking over the constant as determined by each star, nothing definitive, as Mr. Richardson justly observes, can be concluded, as to whether light emitted from different stars is propagated to us with different degrees of velocity: the idea is not irrational, but its validity future astronomers must determine.

(The President then, addressing Mr. Richardson, continued thus:—)

Mr. Richardson,—Brought up to an employment little allied to astronomy—residing in a part of the country remote from the metropolis—cut off from the society of scientific men, which operates so powerfully in stimulating to scientific exertions,—we see you quitting the place of your birth,—leaving the roof of your respected parents,—and presenting yourself in this great city, known only to a single individual; abandoning every sordid pursuit to follow that which, however noble, too often leads, in this country, to neglect and poverty—we find you, in August 1822, at the Royal Observatory as an assistant. Here you soon distinguished yourself by your punctuality—your attention—and your zeal; accustomed to the business of an observatory,* you required to be instructed only in the established routine of that to which you were appointed. Soon did you gain the confidence of the Astronomer Royal; and whether he wished to establish the place of a star in the heavens, or of a spot on the earth, to no one could he intrust the one or the other with more confidence than to you, whom he emphatically styled "his right hand." Attached to astronomy, but unable to maintain your family upon the *miserable* pittance allowed you by the government, we see you observing all day and computing all night. As an assistant of the Royal Observatory, I have only to say,—Go on as you have begun. But if a trust higher in the scale of importance awaits you, remember, sir, that you have *now* a character

* The President's.