

THOMAS GLANVILLE TAYLOR, late Astronomer to the Honourable East India Company at Madras, was born at Ashburton, Devonshire, November 22d, 1804, about a year before his father, Thomas Taylor, was appointed assistant to Dr. Maskelyne at the Royal Observatory. He remained at school until he was fourteen, when his father (who had previously intended to bring him up as a surgeon) was induced, on Mr. Pond's suggestion, to devote him to astronomy. About the beginning of 1820 he was engaged as a supernumerary at the Royal Observatory, and was placed on the establishment as a regular member in August 1822, when the number of assistants (by Mr. Pond's exertions) was permanently increased to four. Mr. Taylor's principal duty was to take charge of the transit observations at night.

Soon after this time he computed the orbit of a comet, as well as we recollect, by La Place's method; but we are unable to supply the exact date, or to refer to the proper authority.

Mr. Taylor gave every aid in his power to Colonel, then Captain, Sabine, when he was engaged on "*his experiments for determining the difference in the number of vibrations, made by an invariable pendulum, at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, and at Mr. Browne's house in Portland-place, where Captain Kater's experiments were made.*" This assistance is apparent throughout the memoir, and was very handsomely acknowledged by Colonel Sabine (*Phil. Trans.* 1829, p. 85). When the same accomplished observer was engaged on his still more difficult and delicate investigation, respecting "*the reduction to a vacuum of the vibrations of an invariable pendulum,*" (*Phil. Trans.* 1829, p. 207) he again acknowledged, in fitting terms, "the valuable assistance of Mr. Taylor," who, besides furnishing the clock rate and error, observed a considerable number of sets in the pendulum series. We need not ask for a higher testimony to Mr. Taylor's skill and powers of manipulation in the nicest operations.

About this time he was engaged, at his leisure hours, in assisting Mr. Groombridge with the reduction of his *Catalogue of Stars within 50° of the North Pole*; and though only a small portion of this task was accomplished by him, the duty was faithfully and efficiently discharged.

The zeal and ability of Mr. Taylor was so well approved to Mr. Pond, then Astronomer Royal, that he recommended him to the Honourable East India Company as a proper person for the important office of Director of the Company's Observatory at Madras. Mr. Taylor was accordingly appointed in the spring of 1830; his astronomical observations have since that time been regularly published at the expense of the Company, and extend at present to five volumes.

In 1840 Mr. Taylor visited England, and returned to Madras in the following year. Two or three years afterwards he met with a severe accident while on a visit to the observatory of Trevandrum—a fall, occasioned by his extreme shortness of sight—from which he never perfectly recovered. His own failing health, and