

---

## METEOR.

---

### TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I was at Boulogne this morning at 11 o'clock, when a violent explosion, followed by a low and long-continued rumbling, was heard in the Hôtel des Bains, where I was then staying. The people in the house ran in alarm from their rooms into the courtyard, asking one another what had happened. Then, observing through the gateway that similar crowds were also collecting in the street and by the harbour; and were equally puzzled as to the source of the noise, I went out, and found myself in ample time to see the long, narrow, smoke-like train of a meteor hanging in the sky. The final puff that indicated the place of explosion was marked with perfect distinctness, but the point where the train first commenced was hidden from my view by a block of houses. I leisurely remarked the necessary bearings, and then running back to my room returned with a small travelling "altazimuth" I had by me, and measured them. The results were:—For the first point in the train that I could see, altitude, 62 deg.; magnetic azimuth, 95 deg.; for the final puff, altitude, 40 deg.; magnetic azimuth, 195 deg.

I doubt the error in any of these observations exceeding 1 deg.; I feel sure it does not exceed 2 deg. The average breadth of the train of smoke was about 1 deg. A comparison of these measurements with any set taken elsewhere—and doubtless you will receive some other communications—will, at least, indicate the path of the meteor, and will accurately fix its height above the earth at the time of explosion.

FRANCIS GALTON.

London, June 20.

---

### FOLKESTONE, JUNE 20.

At 10 45 this morning a large meteor was seen traversing the sky at an elevation of about 45 degrees in a direction from N. to S., leaving a perfect train of smoke in the atmosphere, which was quite clear, and the sun brightly shining. It was distinctly visible for some time, and gradually dispersed over the sea. From four to five minutes after it was first observed a loud double report, as from two pieces of heavy ordnance simultaneously discharged, was heard, very much louder than we hear the report of the guns when firing from the heights at Dover.

---