# LVI. *An Extract of a Letter from Abbé* De la Caille, *F. R. S. and Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences at* Paris, *to* Matthew Maty, *M. D. and F. R. S.*

Paris, Feb. 18, 1760.

Read March 6, 1760.

I'LL venture to send you some of my observations on the present comet, because bad weather may have prevented it from being seen in England.

| | Equal time. | | | Longitude. | | | | North latitude. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | h | ′ | ″ | ° | ′ | ″ | | ° | ′ | ″ |
| Feb. 8. | 9 | 29 | 28 | ♌ 20 | 17 | 22 | | 3 | 26 | 42 |
| 9. | 8 | 48 | 50 | 18 | 49 | 18 | | 4 | 46 | 28 |
| 11. | 7 | 22 | 35 | 16 | 5 | 3 | | 7 | 14 | 50 |
| 13. | 7 | 47 | 4 | 14 | 43 | 21 | | 8 | 24 | 18 |
| 14. | 6 | 41 | 0 | 12 | 20 | 18 | | 10 | 30 | 9 |

These observations, together with another made at Marseilles, (on the first day) at $9^h$ 55′ 38″ equal time, when the longitude of the comet was found in ♌ 23° 29′ 46″, and its north latitude 31′ 20″, have enabled me to compute the elements of its orbit. Its motion is direct. The ascending node is in ♌ 19° 42′ 0″, and the place of the perihelion in ♉ 26° 41′ 22″. The inclination of the orbit is 80° 51′ 30″, and the distance of the perihelion $\frac{85248}{100000}$ of the radius of the orbit of the earth. The comet passed the perihelion Nov. 25, 1759, at $20^h$ 55′, mean time, at Paris. These computations will be further improved by the observations I still hope to make; but they are sufficient to find the comet's place in the heavens.