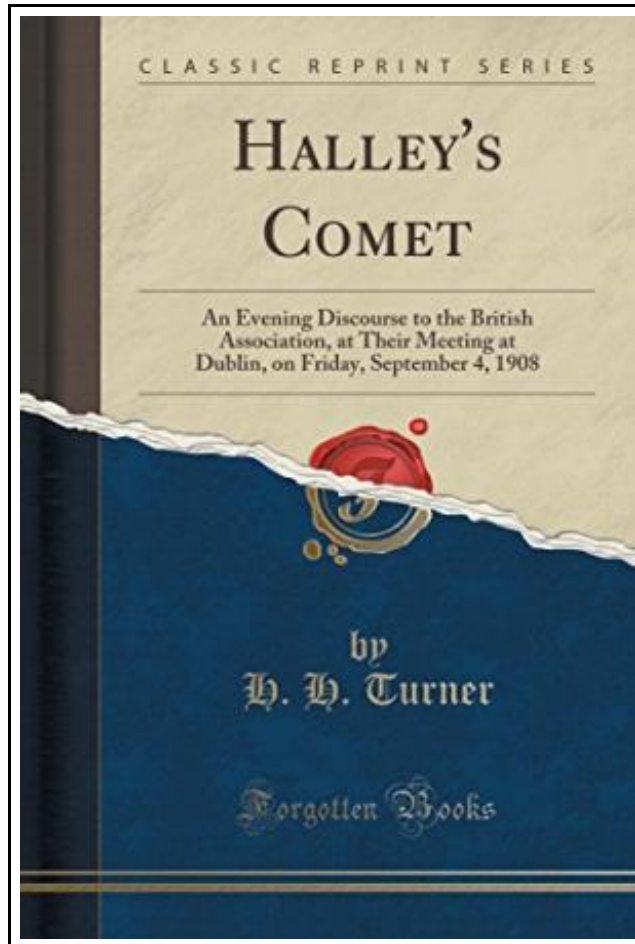


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Halley s Comet: An Evening Discourse to the British Association, at Their Meeting at Dublin, on Friday, September 4, 1908 The British Association is to meet next year at Winnipeg; so that before it again assembles on this side of the Atlantic Halley s comet will have returned once more to perihelion. Its last return was in 1835; and judging by the records of that time, it may be expected to be a fairly bright comet in May, 1910. But it will be by no means one of the brightest comets: it will probably not compare, for instance, with the great comet of 1858, which some of us remember, and which is associated with a famous vintage. The fame of Halley s comet is due to two causes almost independent of its brightness: to its long history (which has now been carried back definitely, by the admirable work of Messrs. Cowell and Crommelin of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, to B. C. 240), and to the circumstances under which it became associated with the name of Halley, who discovered, not the comet itself, but its periodic character. This discovery - that the same comet might and actually did return to us again and again - followed as a natural consequence from Newton s great discovery of the Law of Gravitation: and the story of Halley s comet thus forms an integral part of the most important event in the whole history of science. The Law of Gravitation was not realized in its complete form at a single epoch: Newton s work began in 1665, and was not matured until 1685: while Halley s deduction was dated...



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