



Drawn by Scriven Bolton, F.R.A.S. Copyrighted in the United States and Canada

## A 100-Million-Mile Belt around the Sun

### Does It Affect the Weather Conditions on Earth?

By Scriven Bolton

UNUSUAL weather conditions in all parts of the world during the last few months, especially marked by a late spring and early autumn have given rise to the question whether our climate is affected by a vast 100-million-mile ring of matter observed about the sun.

This faint, cone-shaped belt of light stretching up from the western horizon

has been visible in clear skies before sunrise during the spring, and after sunset during the autumn. It is known to astronomers as the Zodiacal Light. They explain it by saying that the sun is circled by a huge flat ring of matter, somewhat like the rings of Saturn, and extending into space for more than 100 million miles, far beyond the Earth and its orbit, as shown above. Its position, as seen from the Earth, is always edgewise; hence its cone-

shaped appearance. The great ring is composed of a huge conglomeration of minute solid particles, or meteoric bodies, having rough surfaces, and shining by reflected sunlight. Like the Earth, each particle moves in its own elliptical orbit around the sun.

This ring of matter appears to offer no resistance to the movement of the Earth, Venus, and Mercury, whose orbits lie within its boundaries, or to that of comets.