

THE GREAT ECLIPSE OF 1869.

The scientific observations made during the progress of the eclipse of 1869 are of special interest now, in view of the complete organization perfected by our American astronomers to observe the totality of to-day's eclipse in our Western States and in Alaska. The breadth of the totality was then 143 miles, and the maximum duration of seven minutes without a parallel in the annals of astronomy.

Six parties were sent out last year by various Governments, societies, or individuals. One from the Royal Society, under Lieutenant Herschel, located itself at Belgium, in India; another from the Royal Astronomical Society, under Major Tennant, went to Guntour, in India, at which place a French party, under M. Janssen, who represented the Academie des Sciences, also established itself. Another French party, under M. Stephan, posted themselves at Waly-Tonne, on the peninsula of Malacca, while a Russian corps, under Dr. Vogel, took their ground at Aden, in Arabia, near the mouth of the Red Sea. A few individual observers were stationed at intermediate points; and, lastly, an English party, under Captain Haig, fixed upon Bejapour, in India.

The special points to which attention was directed by all parties were:—1. Photographic records of the phenomena. 2. Observation of the protuberances or rose-colored flames. 3. Observation of the corona with the polariscope. 4. Observation of the corona and protuberances with the spectroscope.

Much valuable data for investigation was obtained by these observers. Several of the red prominences were visible, and photographed at different stations. At Guntour, Major Tennant photographed one which from its size and shape was called the Great Horn. Mr. De La Rue, whose photographs of the sun in 1860 were unequalled, states that the copies which he had received were not sufficiently distinct to enable him to ascertain whether there was any change in the aspect of the Great Horn during Major Tennant's observations, but that it is very probable that there was for that prominence as depicted by different observers along the line of totality presented appearances warranting the suspicion that the Great Horn was undergoing rotation; and at a later date he recognizes evidence of such rotation in Major Tennant's glass copies of his photographs. But there was a glare of light beneath the prominences which the observations did not satisfactorily explain; and Mr. De La Rue states that it is necessary to "wait for future solar eclipses before we can ascertain with certainty whether there is any self-luminous atmosphere between the photosphere and the under side of the prominences," and he suggests the importance of taking photographic observations as nearly as possible on both the northern and southern limits of the shadow, as well as at stations situated near its centre.

Professor Brayley deduces from the observations "the strongest evidence that the facule (or bright portions of the sun's disc) and the luminous prominences are identical, or at least that the latter are the superior terminations of the former. If such be the fact, they must also be connected with the spots." He says:—"It will be consistent with all known facts to believe that they are the prolonged summits, rising from the level of the photosphere, or that portion of the sun's atmosphere from which we receive light, of the torrents of matter originally wholly gaseous, ascending from the nuclear regions of the sun, which pierce through the successive envelopes of the nucleus, form the cloudy stratum to the photosphere; and that the observed height to which the prominences ascend is at once the consequence and the index of the enormous force with which the original torrents are projected from the nucleus."

The polariscope showed at various places of observation that the prominences gave no indication of polarized light; but, on the other hand, that the light of the corona was polarized in a plane passing through the sun's centre. The most important observations, however, were with the spectroscope—that wonderful instrument by which astronomers can determine the chemical constituents of the heavenly bodies.

Upon the corona, these observations gave no result, or showed a very faint and apparently continuous spectrum. The luminous prominences, however, showed themselves to be gaseous, and gave marked spectra of bright lines. The correspondence of three of these lines, a red, a blue, and a violet, with those derived from the light of hydrogen heated by an electric discharge, is very marked, the latter showing a brilliant rose color. This, combined with other analyses, makes it extremely probable that hydrogen is a main constituent of these prominences.

The only photographs that have been generally circulated are those taken by the Prussian expedition under Dr. Vogel, one of which was sent to the Philadelphia Photographer. The objects seen at the first moment of totality consist chiefly of a long series of flame-like protuberances, stretching for a distance of at least 500,000 miles along the edge of the sun, and composed of more brilliant central masses, with tongues and fringes of central light. The impression conveyed is of a vast conflagration blown by a wind from left to right, and seen over the edge of a serrated range of hills.

mass of snowy mountains, with its base resting on the moon's limb, and enlightened by a setting sun. The preceding observation shows at once:—
"First. The gaseous nature of the protuberances (the lines being bright).
"Second. The general similarity of their chemical composition (the spectra corresponding line for line).
"Third. Their chemical species (the red and blue lines of their spectrum being no other than the lines C and F of the solar one, and belonging, as is well known, to hydrogen gas).
"It is very certain that if an atmosphere formed the vapors of all the substances which have been found in the sun really existed above the photosphere, it would have given a spectrum at least as brilliant as that of the protuberances, which were formed of a gas much less dense and less luminous. It must, then, be admitted that if this atmosphere exists, its light is so small that it has escaped notice. I must also add that this result did not much surprise me; for my investigations on the solar spectrum had led me to doubt the reality of any considerable atmosphere around the sun, and I am more and more inclined to think that the phenomena of elective absorption, ascribed by the great physicist of Heidelberg to an atmosphere exterior to the sun, are due to the vapors of the photosphere itself, in which the solid and liquid particles forming the luminous clouds are floating. This view is not merely in harmony with the beautiful theory on the constitution of the photosphere which we owe to M. Faye, but even seems to be a necessary deduction from it."

On the day of the eclipse M. Janssen discovered a method by which these red protuberances might be observed even when the sun was unobscured, and, applying this new method on the following morning, he soon saw the bright lines formed by the protuberances; but their length and arrangement showed that great changes had occurred. It was evident not only that hydrogen was the most important element in these circum-solar masses, but that they were rapidly changing both in form and position. He also observed that the bright lines of the protuberances sometimes penetrated into the corresponding dark lines of the solar spectrum, showing that the protuberance extends over part of the sun's disc. It was to be expected that these protuberances, belonging to the sun, would exist not merely on the margin, as seen from the earth, but over its whole circumference, or over the whole surface; but during eclipses the interposition of the moon makes its proof impossible. Another advantage of the new method of observing the spectra of the protuberances consists in the fact that these spectra are directly compared with the spectrum of the sun itself; whereas in eclipses, the sun's spectrum being cut off, it has been necessary to resort to graduated scales to fix the position of the lines. The principal conclusions to which M. Janssen arrives, at the time of his report, in November, are these:—

"First. That the luminous protuberances observed during total eclipses belong unquestionably to the circum-solar regions.
"Second. That these bodies are mainly or entirely composed of incandescent hydrogen gas.
"Third. That they are subject to movements of which no terrestrial phenomenon can give us any idea; since, though they are masses of matter having several hundred times the volume of the earth, they change completely their form and position in the course of a few minutes."
This latter statement is strengthened by the independent testimony of the photographs taken at Aden and at Guntour, for, as Mr. De La Rue states, "A comparison of the two makes it evident that some change in the direction of the Great Horn had occurred in the lapse of forty minutes."

Important as are the conclusions already arrived at, much remains to be learned. In the last number of the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society (London) is an extract from a letter from J. Baxendall, in which he says:—
"Recent observations and discoveries indicate very clearly that this corona is not an appendage of the sun. What, then, is it? or how is its appearance to be accounted for? In a conversation I had some weeks ago with Professor Roscoe on the subject, I reminded him that in a paper which I read to the Literary and Philosophical Society in March, 1864, giving the results of a discussion of an immense number of magnetic and temperature observations made in different parts of the world, I showed that these results could be best explained by assuming the existence of an irregular nebulous ring circulating about the sun, nearly in the plane of the ecliptic, and at a mean distance of 0.166; and I suggested to him that the reflection of the sun's light from the matter of this ring might be the real cause of the appearance of the corona in total solar eclipses."
Mr. Baxendall proceeds to show the improbability that the corona can be the result of reflection from the earth's atmosphere, or from any possible atmosphere upon the moon's surface. New observations must determine the point.

In conclusion, it may be briefly said that the present scientific theory of the solar constitution represents or classifies it in three atmospheres:—1. The solar photosphere, or visible surface, the white-light-giving atmosphere. 2. The cool, absorbing, relatively non-luminous atmosphere. 3. The chromosphere, or local aggregations at the prominences of an entirely enveloping medium.

TRADE OF THE PACIFIC RAILWAYS.

The completion of the railway to the Pacific, while it opens the route for the great trade from Asia to all parts of the world, is, in the present, the extension of the facilities of commerce and production to a new, vast, and hitherto secluded portion of our own country. The commerce between Chicago, and over that part of the country lying between the Missouri river and Laramie plains, will be extended, during the next ten years, our entire trade with China; and when to this is added the future trade with Colorado, Utah, and Nevada, on the south of the railway, and Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, on the north, the trade with Asia, however valuable, will be comparatively but a small contribution to the national wealth. It is but a few years since the railway system of Chicago was extended to Wisconsin, Iowa, and Kansas; a still shorter period has passed since Minnesota was embraced in the iron band; and these States until thus connected were more remote from trade—more remote in the means and opportunities of an exchange of commodities—than Nebraska, Colorado, and Nevada are today. The opening of the railway is but an extension of the commercial circuit of which Chicago is the centre. It is the extension, to a hitherto closed region, of the means of sending their products to market, and of receiving other needed commodities in exchange. These States and Territories, rich in their inexhaustible mineral treasures, are destined to be as productive in other particulars as their more Eastern neighbors. The hand of industry, which has made the sage-brush land of Utah as productive as the prairie of Iowa or Minnesota, will, with little delay, and at no very great cost, turn the mountain streams and spring rivulets through and over the now arid plains, and the sage will give place to timothy; the desert will bring forth corn and wheat; and herds of bees will be fattened on the fields now sterile. Into this vast region of gold and iron, silver and lead, and of coal, will pour a hardy and thrifty population. From Europe and Asia will come the laborer that is to work the mines, irrigate the land, cultivate the soil, build the roads, and swell the volume of national wealth.

There is no need of any rivalry or jealousy between Chicago and San Francisco as to which shall supply this country, and which receive in exchange its products. That will be settled by laws which cannot be controlled by either city. San Francisco, to supply this country, must in turn be supplied by the isthmus or Cape Horn route. If San Francisco can furnish Nevada with what Nevada wants cheaper than Chicago can, then the trade will go there; if not, and Chicago can undersell San Francisco in Virginia City, then the trade will come here. San Francisco stands toward Chicago in this respect just as Cincinnati, or St. Louis, or Milwaukee, or Detroit does for the trade of the Northwestern States. Wherever the producer of gold, silver, lead, wheat, corn, fruit, hides, or other products, can get the most iron, cloth, furniture, butter, hardware, machinery, or tools in exchange therefor, to that place he will take his property for exchange. It has been by the operation of this invariable law that the trade of Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, Western Missouri, and of the greater part of Illinois has been centred in Chicago. We buy all these States and parts of States here to sell, and give them in return what they need. The same reason has made Chicago the market and the source of supply of Nebraska and Montana, and will of Colorado, Nevada, and all the States and Territories lying east of the Sierra Nevada. Cheap freights and abundant freights both ways, speedy sales and quick returns, will command the market at all times and under all circumstances. The outer trade of San Francisco must be with the Asiatic

HAIRVARD FOREVER!

While yet the Oxford-Harvard regatta is unrolled, that sonorous wisdom with which the gifted British journalist has even the faculty of making a printed page reverberate comes out strong upon us by cable and by mail. For instance, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which is of opinion that the method of training adopted by the Harvard crew is "similar to the barbarous but long exploded system of English amateur training in the dark ages," hopes, in the most condescending and disinterested way, that "the Americans will be cautioned in time." And we have the news by cable that "the comments of the English press are generally unfavorable upon the Harvard style of rowing," with a subsequent admission that "they were considered to have behaved better the second day they were out. Nor does the Briton restrain a highly well-bred propensity to question the veracity of our poor newspapers, and indite a saving clause in his countrymen's behalf. "They (the Harvard crew) were put down generally," says the *London Herald*, "as nearer eleven stone than twelve; but the weighing of them yesterday told a different tale altogether, for they all pulled over the scale at twelve stone, and one of them nearly thirteen, thus giving them an average of nearly twelve stone and a half!"—which "startling increase," the *Herald* is at pains to admonish the crew, there will be plenty of time to train away before the regatta is in mind," as the late lamented Mr. Lincoln used to say, of a little story.

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countries. The productions of the States between the Missouri river and Sacramento, with the exception of silver, will not be of the character which will find an export market in San Francisco. But in an article which is different. There is not an article which is grown, produced, or manufactured in any part of the habitable globe that cannot find a market in Chicago; and the reason is that the trade of this city is not of a merely local character, but includes the supply of one-third the people of the country, embracing in that number men of every nationality, and engaged in every trade and industry known to civilized man.

When this newly-opened country is filled, as it will be very soon, with a producing population, its wants will be great, and its productions still greater. The immediate line of the road will, of course, be first settled, but already, in localities where a year ago there was no evidence of the presence of men, there are now villages and hamlets and growing towns, not alone on the line of the railway, but back from five to ten miles, upon spots favorable for industrial pursuits, and supplied with natural facilities for production. Magnificent as is the idea of opening up a commercial intercourse with the empires of Asia, the commerce and productions of this empire at our door, peopled with our own people, and covered with our own flag, is far more grand, not only in the future, but even in the immediate present.

THE SPANISH GUNBOATS.

The course taken by the Government in regard to the Spanish gunboats indicates plainly a spirit of fairness towards Spain that ought to soften the asperity with which her agents here might naturally receive the announcement of the purpose of the administration. Spain and Peru are quite equal before us and have the same claims in regard to our neutrality. Spain was herself the first to appeal to our laws to prevent the sailing of ships. Her war with Peru, though in a practical state of abeyance, made her especially careful in regard to the armed forces of that nation, and when certain vessels were bought here for the Peruvian Government the protest of the Spanish authorities prevented their sailing, and they finally did not sail, except on a sort of parole, our Government exacting a guarantee that they should not be used against the power of Spain. Exactly what our Government then did, on the application of Spain herself, it now does for Peru. Although nominally the Spanish vessels are seized, they are, in fact, only under the surveillance of the law. Thus those charged, with their construction are left unembarrassed and the building and equipment of the ships go on. So that when the Spanish Government has given sufficient evidence that these vessels are not intended for use against any power with which we are at peace, it will be found that the action of our Government has not entailed a day's loss of time. Our hope for the interest of Cuba, however, is that in the meantime the administration, putting itself in full sympathy with the national sentiment on the subject, will see the propriety of recognizing the rights of the Cubans, and then if Spain gives guarantees that compel the withdrawal of the protest entered by Peru, the Cuban Government may take the place of Peru and enter another protest. Spain would then only have to lament the inconvenience to a nation of having on its hands more than one war at a time.

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The draft of the Parliamentary reforms in France is now matured. It accords with Napoleon's late message in granting the right of self-regulation, the voting of the budget in detail, the simplifying of the mode of amendment, the selection of ministers from the chambers, the submission of tariff modifications, and the extension of the right to interpellate. The Emperor and the Legislature will together enjoy the initiative in making laws; and the members of both chambers will be permitted to address questions and demands to the government. Amendments will be passed to a committee, communicated to the government, returned to the chamber with remark, and finally acted upon. A more definite statement of this provision is to be expected than that which we have now by cable, but apparently the Council of State is deprived of its sovereign right to devour all amendments before they can be put to the vote, while the Emperor retains sufficient power over the subject to make the amendment still a matter of process and difficulty. Over and above the reforms promised in his late message, the Emperor's new exhibit provides that Ministers shall be present at debates, and, though responsible for their acts, can only be impeached by the Senate. The Senate will have public session, but on motion of five members may be resolved into secrecy. We are advised that the matured decree of the Emperor will thoroughly ordain the relations which are to exist between the two Chambers and himself, and will dwell on the fraternal character of national government into liberal empire. He will also reduce taxes and extend education.

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same instant, let go of the limb myself. I always lighted in the saddle. Every morning I used to have to ride that animal around a large factory to take a little of the spirit out of him. He used to go so fast for the first twenty or thirty times around that I saw my back continually, and came nearly running over myself on several occasions. And we have tranquil assurance to make to every mother's son of these London writers who are trouncing the Harvard crew with their quills, that those boys are perfectly competent to starve themselves down to emaciation in a fortnight, dance the rest of their flesh off their skeletons the night before the coming regatta, put their bony grip to the oars of a yawl next day, and pull round the course, sit down to their dinners and eat themselves into obesity again, before their Oxford opponents have fairly got their blades into the Thames!

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ELLIOTT & DUNN, HAVING REMOVED TO THEIR NEW BUILDING, NO. 109 SOUTH THIRD STREET, Are now prepared to transact a GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS, and deal in GOVERNMENT and other Securities, GOLD, SILVER, Etc. Received MONEY ON DEPOSIT, allowing interest. NEGOTIATE LOANS, giving special attention to MERCANTILE PAPER. Will execute orders for Stocks, Bonds, Etc., ON COMMISSION, at the Stock Exchanges of Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Baltimore. 4 25/2

SMITH, RANDOLPH & CO., BANKERS, PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK. DEALERS IN UNITED STATES BONDS, and MEMBERS OF STOCK AND GOLD EXCHANGE. Receive Accounts of Banks and Bankers on Liberal Terms. ISSUE BILLS OF EXCHANGE ON C. J. HAMRO & SON, London. B. METZLER & SON & CO., Frankfurt. JAMES W. TUCKER & CO., Paris. And Other Principal Cities, and Letters of Credit 1 1/2 Available Throughout Europe. WINES.

HER MAJESTY CHAMPAGNE, DUNTON & LUSSON, 215 SOUTH FRONT STREET. THE ATTENTION OF THE TRADE IS solicited to the following very Choice Wines, etc., for sale by DUNTON & LUSSON, 215 SOUTH FRONT STREET. CHAMPAGNE—Agents for her Majesty, Duc de Montebello, Curte Blaise, Carte Blanche, and Charles Farnes Grand Vin Farnes, and Vin Imperial, M. Kieckhoff & Co. of Mayence, Spangberg, Moselle and RILLING WINES. MADEIRAS—Old Island, South Side, Reserve. SHERRIES—F. Lindberg, Amontillado, Fines, Vallette, Fines and Golden Star, Crown, etc. PORTS—Vinho Velho Real, Vallee, and Crown. CLARETS—From Alto & Cio, Montferand and Bordeny, Claret and Farnes Wines. GIN—Madeira Swan & Co. BRANDIES—Benedictine, Old, Dupuy & Co.'s various vintages. 4 1/2

CARSTAIRS & McCALL, No. 126 WALNUT & 21 GRANITE STREETS, Importers of BRANDIES, WINES, GIN, OLIVE OIL, ETC., COMMISSION MERCHANTS For the sale of PURE OLD RYE, WHEAT and BOURBON WHISKEY. CARSTAIRS' OLIVE OIL—AN INVOCER of the above for sale by CARSTAIRS & McCALL, 5 25/2 No. 126 WALNUT and 21 GRANITE STS.