

WHEN THE SUN HIDES

What Will Happen During the Coming Total Eclipse.

BY ANDREW DOWNS.

On the morning of May 28, when the spring sun is riding high in the heavens, a strange thing will happen. The moon, invisible, of course, will get between the earth and the sun. Although the moon is an insignificant little ball when compared to the sun, it is so much nearer us that the great orb of day will be entirely blotted out.

Reaching down through space will dip, like a great pencil, the black shadow of the moon. This shadow will draw across the face of the earth a broad black line. It will be a rushing, sweeping stroke, that will swing eastward at the rate of nearly 2,000 miles an hour. This will be the path of total eclipse. The line will be about 50 miles wide. It will cross Mexico and strike the United States at New Orleans. From there it will sweep northeast to Norfolk, whence it will pass out across Cape Henry and over the ocean.

So from New Orleans to Norfolk the eclipse will be total. This means that for the space of about 90 seconds this part of the country will be in semi-darkness. All the rest of the country, from Salt Lake City east, will have to be satisfied with only a partial eclipse. But this will be well worth seeing. If you are anywhere near the line of total eclipse, you will see the greater part of the day star obscured, as if a great hand were trying to shut out the light.

Eclipses of the sun, as you know, are not everyday occurrences. Even when they do come it often happens that America is left out. The last total eclipse visible in the United States east of the Rockies was in 1878, and the next one will not occur until 1916. So if you are fortunate enough to be within the path of totality during the coming eclipse you should make the most of it, for this is the chance of a lifetime. The people who have seen more than one total eclipse are the astronomers who have traveled to the ends of the earth for that purpose.

But this is a popular eclipse. It is not one of those shy affairs that go off to inaccessible parts of the earth to be seen by the favored few. It will come to a thickly populated and easily reached section of our own country.

It will occur on time too. There is to be no uncertainty about this phenomenon. There will be no disappointment, as there was about the meteor showers last fall. Eclipses are reliable. They never cancel dates. Only cloudy or stormy weather can obstruct the show. The eclipse will go on, clouds or no clouds, but unless there is a clear sky we cannot see it.

As a spectacle a total solar eclipse ranks among the most marvelous ever presented to the eyes of man. The race of the moon shadow across the face of the landscape as the moment of totality approaches has always been described by observers as one of the most staggering, awe inspiring scenes that it is possible to imagine. Then come the obscurity, the disappearance of the sun, the strange chill of unnatural darkness, the outburst of the wonderful coronal streamers around the spot where a black hole seems suddenly to have taken the place of the sun, the red flames of the prominences and, after one or two minutes of awful pause and silence, the gleam of the re-appearing orb and the swift flight of the shadow eastward.

During most eclipses that have heretofore occurred astronomers have had few eyes to assist their own in showing the picturesque features of the phenomenon. Well known astronomers who have gone half round the earth to observe an eclipse have come back acknowledging that they had not really seen it, because they had no time to look at it. Their attention was entirely absorbed by the technical observations, and only a dreamlike impression of the real wonders of the scene had been made upon their minds.

On this occasion what has heretofore been so seriously lacking will be supplied in abundance, and while astronomers are busy with telescope, spec-

troscope and camera, thousands of eyes will note things which perhaps have not before been described as visible or as occurring during a total eclipse.

Here is the reply given by Professor Burnham of Chicago, when asked by a budding astronomer for advice as to the best instruments to use during the coming eclipse. He said:

"Use the most valuable instrument God ever gave you—your eye. Watch the effect of the strange phenomenon on nature, and learn a lesson in her laws that you'll never forget, sir; never forget."

Some details of the eclipse which are of interest are as follows: The track of totality begins on the Pacific ocean just west of Mexico at sunrise, trends due eastward over Mexico, enters the United States very near New Orleans, extends northward over Mobile and Montgomery, near Atlanta, over Raleigh, and leaves this country in the region of Norfolk and Cape Henry. It then crosses the Atlantic ocean and touches Europe at Coimbra, Portugal, takes in Algiers and northern Africa, terminating near the northern end of the Red sea at sunset.

The eclipse, therefore, may be observed in the United States in the morning hours from about 7:20 to 9 o'clock, and in Spain and Africa in the afternoon after 4.

The local hour of totality increases from west to east, beginning at 7:27 a. m. near New Orleans, and growing later to 8:50 near Norfolk, as the shadow sweeps over the country. The duration of totality is 1 minute and 13 seconds near New Orleans and 1 minute and 42 seconds near Norfolk. This fact constitutes a powerful argument in favor of locating the stations as far east as possible in North Carolina and Virginia, since the gain of half a minute is made in the duration of totality, which is important when every second is precious for observations.

Scientific men have made elaborate preparations for observing the eclipse. The United States government will have two stations, and every big college in the country will have its apparatus located somewhere in the track of the moon shadow. From New Orleans to Norfolk there will be an almost continuous line of telescopes and cameras pointed skyward. To a man in a balloon it would look as if we were planning for a fight with Mars.

The amateur photographers, who are a legion in themselves, will be out in full force. They are spurred on by the knowledge that the most successful photograph of the sun's corona was taken by an amateur. This amateur was Mrs. Maunder, wife of an English astronomer, who accompanied her husband to India. She used a Dallmeyer stigmatism lens of 1 1/2 inches aperture and 9 inches focal length.

The silvery white halo of the corona, which looks as if it belonged to the moon, is the most impressive object seen during an eclipse. Portions of the corona unquestionably extend several million miles from the body that it surrounds. The structure of this envelope excites wonder even in the inexperienced observer, but it is made the subject of careful research by the scientist.

Down at the base of the snow white corona lies a crimson ocean of hydrogen, helium and other gases. It is called the chromosphere. Langley, Young and other experts say it is about 5,000 or 6,000 miles deep. Up from this rose red, or blood red, sea at times rise cloudlike prominences over 100,000 miles high. Young has seen one swiftly grow to an altitude of 350,000 miles. With a spectroscope it is now possible for the astronomer to study the solar chromosphere and prominences at almost any time, but the amateur can see them only during a total eclipse.

After it is all over, perhaps the astronomers may tell us the answers to many questions about the corona which as yet have never been answered. They may also have news of Vulcan, that mysterious star, that lost world, which is supposed to exist somewhere between the sun and Mercury.

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IT HAS ELIMINATED THE NEGRO.

BUT THE AMENDMENT IN LOUISIANA GUARANTEES TO EVERY WHITE MAN THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

It Has Purified the Politics of the State.

LETTER BY JOSEPHUS DANIELS FROM NEW ORLEANS, LA.

(News-Observer.)

In this city the adoption of the constitutional amendment, similar to the one pending in North Carolina, resulted in reducing the negro vote from 14,177 to 1,403. These are official figures, taken this morning from the books in the office of Mr. Jere M. Gleason, State Registrar of voters for the parish of Orleans.

This fully answers the question as to whether the amendment, if adopted in North Carolina, would eliminate the negro from politics. A reduction from 14,177 to 1,493 in the city where the negro is better educated and possesses more property than anywhere else in the State, is a fact that nobody can get around. The negroes are said to be better educated in this city than in any other portion of the United States. The public schools here are in a high state of efficiency, and have been open to the colored youth for more than twenty-five years. The number of negroes is smaller here than in most Southern cities, being in the proportion of about four whites to one negro. Here the negroes get better wages than in any other parish (all counties here are called parishes), and are of a higher grade of intelligence than in the farming sections of the State. If in this city, where the negro is superior to his brother on the sugar and cotton plantations, the negro vote has "swunk" from 14,177 to 1,493, the proportion of shrinkage is said to be even larger in the rural districts. I will go to some of the country precincts later and give the official figures.

One of the best posted men I have met in this State is Hon. Jere Gleason, State Registrar of New Orleans. I interviewed him about the practical operations of the amendment and found that it had been a perfect success in doing three things:

1. Eliminating the negro.
2. Guaranteeing the right to vote to every white, whether educated or not.
3. Purifying politics.

Mr. Gleason said:

"In 1896 a full registration was brought out by the hot fight made by the Democrats against the fusion of all the elements opposed to the Democratic party. The registration in the city in that year (1896) exceeded 60,000, of which number 14,177 were negroes, as this table shows:

Ward.	White.	Colored.	Total.
1	2,846	783	3,629
2	2,916	713	3,629
3	5,121	2,237	7,358
4	2,481	854	3,335
5	3,850	1,021	4,871
6	2,924	513	3,437
7	3,683	1,449	5,132
8	2,234	270	2,504
9	3,422	558	3,980
10	4,172	914	5,086
11	3,776	1,100	4,876
12	2,578	711	3,289
13	1,656	522	2,178
14	1,166	337	1,503
15	1,962	1,431	3,393
16	477	488	965
17	643	276	919

Total, 45,907 14,177 60,084

"In November, 1899, the first election was held under the new constitutional amendment. The total registration was 38,964, of which number 1,368 were negroes, a reduction of the negro vote from the 1896 registration, which was the fullest known, of 12,709. This city election showed to the whole State the value of the amendment, and opened the way for the result seen in the State election held last month. The State election was held on the 17th of April. Registration closed on the 17th of March, as the law requires it to close thirty days before the election. The registration in the parish (it embraces only the 17 wards in New Orleans) for the State election was 38,894, of which number 1,493 were negroes.

"In the election only about 21,000 votes were cast, and all were for the Democratic ticket except about 2,500 which were cast for the combination opposition ticket. The vote was small for two reasons: 1. It was apparent that it would be a landslide for the Democrats, and 2. It was almost impossible to get to the polls, the

entire city being under water, and almost the entire State as well. The railroads were under water and some of them have not been able to run trains until two or three days ago. I never saw anything before like that flood. It began the night before the election, and such a pour-down was something new for us. I left home at 6 o'clock, and voted on my way up. The voting precinct is two squares from my residence. It was 11:30 that morning before I could get to my office, so great was the flood. Men had to go to the election in skiffs and crafts, and of course, knowing that the voting was all one way, many did not care to go to the trouble to vote."

I next asked Mr. Gleason this question: "Have any illiterate white men in New Orleans been denied the privilege of voting because they could not read and write?"

"None whatever. Every white man who wants to vote is permitted to vote. Public sentiment is such that no man in politics would attempt to throw obstacles in the way of an illiterate white man's voting. Practically all who could not read and write registered under the grandfather clause in the time prescribed by law and is on a permanent roll of qualified voters, and is guaranteed the right to vote all his life."

"NO WHITE MAN—NONE WHATSOEVER—HAS BEEN DISFRANCHISED."

"What has been the result of the adoption of your new constitution on the elections I asked Mr. Gleason. Here is his answer: "Elections are now absolutely fair. The most bitter enemy has been unable to substantiate a charge of the least unfairness. The opposition, after election, were forced to say, 'We haven't a word to say.' There is not a suspicion of unfairness about our elections. I believe that the registration in this city is the cleanest of any city on the continent."

As to the constitutionality of the amendment, Mr. Gleason said: "There has never been any serious suggestion of testing the constitutionality. The lily white Republican party claim they are satisfied with it. Privately it's Republicans say that the amendment is a good thing, but publicly they can't afford to say it."

Three Sorts of Disfranchisement.

In this campaign the people are considering three sorts of disfranchisement:

1. The Democrats propose a constitutional amendment by which the great mass of negroes, notoriously unfit for suffrage, may be eliminated from the ballot box, thus putting an end to negro rule and the jeopardy of it. This proposition is based on the same fundamental principles that have actuated the State of South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana and other Southern States in dealing with the ignorant negro voters, that Massachusetts adopted to prevent rule by the foreign voters who had recently landed, and that was put into practice by the Pacific States and the Federal Congress to put an end to the wholesale importation of Chinamen who threatened the occupation of the laborers of California and adjacent States on the Pacific slope.

2. The Populists advocated unlimited negro suffrage, but say they would favor an amendment to the Constitution to put negroes in the same class with atheists and criminals, and forbid all three classes holding office. That is what the Populists say they favor. When, conjointly with the Republicans, they were in full control of the legislative, executive and judicial departments of government, instead of excluding negroes from office, they helped to elect more than 1,000 important public positions in the State, and to emphasize their belief in giving the negro office, the State Chairman of the Populist Executive Committee, State Auditor Hal W. Ayer, cast his vote for the negro Jim Young, now a revenue officer, to represent Wake county and the capital city of the State in the General Assembly, and against that high-toned Christian gentleman, Needham B. Broughton. That illustrates the practice of populist pie-eaters and Populist pie-hunters. Now

that their advocacy of negro rule has cost them most of their votes, these Re-pop-lican leaders turn around and say that the chief desire of their hearts is to keep the negro on the poll books to vote for them, but to forever prevent any negro to the third generation holding office.

3. The Republican convention, composed almost wholly of Federal office-holders, takes ground in favor of letting every negro vote and in letting negroes hold office, but vigorously opposed letting negroes participate in Republican conventions. For two months the Republican bosses have strenuously devoted themselves to keeping negro delegates out of the State convention. Their policy may be gathered by this extract from a letter written by a revenue officer to a negro politician in an eastern county: "Get the negroes to agree to send none but white delegates to the State convention. The Democrats won many votes in 1898 by charging the Republican party with being a negro party, and they came d— a near proving it. If there are many negroes in the State convention the Democratic papers and speakers will howl as never before and we will not be able to do any better than in 1898. Tell all the negro leaders that if they will get the negroes to take a back seat this year, we will defeat the amendment, and next year we will give them a fair division of offices than ever before. If they make demands this year, we will all go down together to the bottom of the sea. If they will stay in the background till the August election they will help win a glorious victory for their race, and then the whites and blacks alike can 'shake the plum tree.'"

That advice was taken pretty generally, the negro office-holders taking the lead in carrying out the orders of the revenue bosses. By reason of it we have this spectacle in North Carolina; a party composed of 120,000 negroes and less than 30,000 white men deliberately disfranchises in its party deliberations 119,000 of its members and then goes before the people fighting the Democrats because they propose to do at the ballot box what the Republicans have done in their primaries and conventions! It was a scheme worthy of the fellows who say in one breath that the Constitutional Amendment will not stand because it discriminates in favor of the illiterate white man who is permitted to vote while denying the same right to the ignorant negro, and in the next breath declares that the Amendment will disfranchise all white men who cannot read and write. This party disfranchises educated and uneducated negroes in its own conventions, but objects to the disfranchisement of ignorant negroes at the polls.

Of the three plans of disfranchisement the Republican is the only party that has put its plan in operation. Of its 240 delegates in the State convention in session here, 127 were revenue officers, 41 held other Federal positions, 24 held county and State offices, (we include negro office-holders in these figures) and the balance were brothers, cousins and connections of pap-suckers, with possibly two dozen delegates who have not had their mouths in the swill tub. The negroes, however, were in the gallery in full force, and the Edgecombe darkey showed he understood the fraud the bosses were perpetrating when he said to a Wake negro: "You can't lose us niggers. We'd rather not 'ficiate in this convention this one time than to be Tillmanized forever. Huh; we'll take a back seat dis here year, but when de mendment is done 'feated, den de nigger will come back ter his own, and den we'll run the whole blame 'ting like we ben er doin' fer to dese many years."

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