

mountains a series of stratified or cumulo-stratified cloud, at an elevation of less than 2000 feet; with a lower surface very sharply defined and (as far as I could judge) most truly horizontal through the whole extent to which I could see them; and with a less regular upper surface: the depth of these clouds could not be more than 200 or 300 feet. They had not the smallest resemblance to the ill-defined fog-clouds which hang about the mountains at all elevations in rainy weather; nor to any other clouds that I have seen during the day in these countries: I think that I have seen clouds in the evening which resembled them more nearly than any others.

After the termination of the eclipse, the day became very hot, and the aspect of the country became very similar to that which it usually presents at this season of the year.

It was not till some hours after my return to Turin that I found that MM. Plana and Forbes had not seen the moon at all during the totality. The region in which the sun and moon ought to have been seen was covered with an opaque cloud: I have little doubt that it was the same cloud which I from the Superga saw just above the moon (the azimuths of Turin and the moon being almost exactly opposed), and to which I was inclined to attribute some of the peculiar phenomena of the eclipse.

I fear that I have greatly trespassed upon the time of the Royal Astronomical Society; and I can offer only this apology, that in describing a phenomenon of such strange character, of which so few authentic accounts exist, there appears to be no possible way of including all those points which are really of scientific interest, except by narrating every thing which was seen, and leaving to others the power of selecting from the mass those circumstances which may possess some real value.

V. Mr. Baily communicated the substance of a circular letter, which he had received from Professor Shumacher, announcing the discovery of a Comet by M. Laugier at Paris, on the 28th of October. At  $10^h 10^m$  mean time at Paris its right ascension was  $16^h 41^m$  and its declination  $+68^\circ 44'$ . The right ascension increased, in six hours,  $3^m 34^s$ , and the declination diminished  $20'$  in the same interval.

VI. Before the close of the meeting, an explanation was given by the Astronomer Royal, Mr. Airy, of the principle of an escapement recently invented by him, and intended to be applied to a clock made by Mr. Dent for the Observatory of Pulkowa. Mr. Airy observed that the severity of the Russian climate rendered the going of clocks furnished with the ordinary dead-beat escapement very imperfect; and he dwelt at some length on the defects of the remontoir escapement, which is the only one applicable to the case in question. These defects chiefly arise from the circumstance that, in all the remontoir escapements hitherto made, a retarding force is made to act upon the pendulum near the extremity of its swing, and an impulse is communicated to it on its return, thus, in both cases, tending to diminish the time of its vibration, and making