

But the following is given as the configuration of the satellites on March 21, 1874:—

	h	m		h	m	s
I. Tr. E.	0	6	I. Oc. D.....	19	4	
I. Sh. E.	0	12	IV. Ec. R.....	20	57	13
III. Oc. D.	+17	53	II. Tr. E.	21	11	
IV. Oc. D.	18	6	III. Ec. R.....	21	20	55
II. Tr. I.	18	35	I. Ec. R.....	21	24	9
II. Sh. I.	18	46	II. Sh. E.	21	26	

∴ from 19^h 4^m to 20^h 57^m there would be a disappearance. I do not remember having seen account of observation by any astronomer in the southern hemisphere of what seems to have been the longest disappearance of the satellites.

On the morning of October 15, 1883, as seen through a small telescope, Jupiter appeared denuded of his satellites for about half a minute. Through a large instrument this would not be an entire disappearance. Had the tables of the IV. sat. been perfect, there would have been a disappearance for more than a quarter of an hour.

On the 3rd of October, 1907, the configurations are : II. Tr. I. 7^h 46^m; III. Ec. R. 7^h 56^m 26^s; the other satellites not being outside the disk of the planet at the time.

Melplash Vicarage, Bridport,
1904, July 15.

Faithfully yours,
S. J. JOHNSON.

Kaspar Gottfried Schweizer.

GENTLEMEN,—

The death of Prof. Brédikhine on the 14th of May last leads us to devote a few thoughts to the earlier history of the observatory at Moscow, of which he had so long been Director. Continuous activity there began in the year 1858, soon after the appointment of his predecessor, Kaspar Gottfried Schweizer. That astronomer was born on the 16th of February, 1816, at Wyla in the canton of Zürich. After he had completed his studies at Zürich, he went in 1839 to Königsberg to assist Bessel, and two years later accepted a similar post under the elder Struve at Pulkowa. He first went to Moscow in 1845, and was appointed Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at the Survey Institute in 1852, and Director of the Observatory in 1856. He was the first discoverer of the third comet of 1847 (on August 31), of the third comet of 1849 (on April 11), of the second comet of 1853 (on April 4, it was visible to the naked eye early in May), and of the first comet of 1855 (on April 11); besides being an independent discoverer of the first comet of 1853, which he observed on the 8th of March (as also did Tuttle), but was anticipated by Secchi, who saw it two days earlier. In 1851 he was sent on an expedition to observe the total eclipse of the Sun,

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which took place on the 28th of July in that year. The station selected was Machnowka, in the government of Kiev, where the weather turned out to be not all that could be desired, so that nothing worthy of note was accomplished. Schweizer was a diligent observer of solar spots and other phenomena; in 1853 he communicated a paper to the *Astronomische Nachrichten* (vol. xxxvi.) on the probable identity of the protuberances and faculae; also of meteoric appearances and of that peculiar oscillatory movement in the stars which was first noticed by Humboldt at Teneriffe in 1799, and may be subjective or may arise from a similar cause to that which produces scintillation. In 1862 and 1864 he published papers on the observed effects of local attraction in and near Moscow. His last publications were on determining the direction of a meridian line in geodetic operations, which appeared in 1870 and 1871; and he died at Moscow on the 6th of July, 1873.

Yours faithfully,

Blackheath, 1904, July 8.

W. T. LYNN.

Eclipse of April 10, 1679.

GENTLEMEN,—

On the above date there seems to have been an eclipse across Ireland, total with the Sun in the horizon. It seems too much to expect that any astronomical, meteorological, or historical work can be found containing an account of the phenomenon or of the gloom. In the year 1230, on May 14, the Sun was totally eclipsed at sunrise a little north of London, and of this earlier eclipse there is an account given by Roger of Hoveden.

This makes three solar eclipses across Great Britain so near to our days as the 17th century, of which we have no mention of the total phase. The dates are August 12, 1654, total about Inverness; that of 1679, and that of September 23, 1699, total, probably, for a few seconds across Caithness. The celebrated eclipse of 1715 was a return of that of April 1679, after two periods.

I am, Gentlemen,

Melplash Vicarage, Bridport,
1904, July 15.

Faithfully yours,

S. J. JOHNSON.

Erratum in the Nautical Almanac for 1904.

GENTLEMEN,—

I am indebted to Mr. Walter Heath, F.R.A.S., for his kindness in pointing out to me a discrepancy between the predicted and observed times of the occultation of θ^2 Tauri by the Moon on the 9th instant. I find that the mean place of this star, as given on page 491 of the *Nautical Almanac*, is erroneous. It had been assumed that the Annual Catalogue of Stars, as printed in the volume of 'Greenwich Observations' for 1897 (from which the adopted place of θ^2 Tauri for 1904.0 was deduced), was for the