

fragility, like some frail moth irresistibly attracted towards the solar lamp; and fluttering ever nearer and nearer around the light until it is consumed. Yet it is not less true of that grand theatre of action where suns and planets move in stately order, than of this little world of ours:

"That not a worm is cloven in vain;
That not a moth with vain desire
Is shrivell'd in a fruitless fire."

Already it has been suggested by Professor William Thompson, of Glasgow, that such may be the means by which the solar fires are replenished, and the central luminary of our system is maintained in undiminished brightness, while raying forth light and heat to all its planetary train. Such a phenomenon is believed to have been recently independently observed by two distinguished English astronomers, Mr. Carrington and Mr. Hodgson, who chanced by a happy coincidence to be simultaneously engaged at their different observatories in watching a group of solar spots. Two intensely luminous bodies were seen suddenly to burst into view, and to move within a period of a few minutes through a space on the solar disc of about 35,000 miles, during which they attained their maximum brightness and then faded away, without affecting the forms of the group of solar spots which lay directly in their path. Lord Wrottesly, while drawing the attention of the British Association, at its recent Oxford meeting, to this interesting contribution of his own favorite science, failed not to note the remarkable coincidence that the simultaneous observations at Kew show on the same day, at the very hour and minute of this unexpected and curious phenomenon, the occurrence of a marked magnetic disturbance. Nor will it, I feel assured, fail to interest you when I state that on applying to my colleague Professor Kingston, he informs me that the register of the Provincial Magnetic Observatory records a corresponding magnetic disturbance at Toronto within a few seconds of the same time.

Thus are we stimulated anew to watch with intelligent sympathy and interest the patient and little-heeded labors of our own Canadian magnetic observers, as day by day they silently note the minutest variations in the phenomena connected with this mysterious force, and strive to wrest from nature the hidden secrets of this uncomprehended power. Yet that is not an altogether uncomprehended power, in the operations of which we already recognize a law of the Universe,