

ECLIPSES IN THE YEAR 1854.

There will be four Eclipses this year, two of the Sun, and two of the Moon.

I. There will be an Eclipse of the Moon on the 12th of May. It will be partial, and not visible in Canada.

II. An Eclipse of the Sun, larger than any which has occurred for many years past, will take place on Friday afternoon, May 26th. This Eclipse will be central, and largest in Canada West, North-Eastern New York, Vermont, and in the Southern part of New Hampshire. The Sun cannot in any place be totally Eclipsed, for the apparent diameter of the Moon will be less than that of the Sun. A bright ring of light will be pictured on the Sun, one-third of a digit wide, where the central Eclipse passes. At Montreal the Eclipse begins at 10 minutes past 4 p.m. The time of the greatest Eclipse occurs at 26 minutes past 5 p.m., and terminates at 33 minutes past 6 p.m. The next notable Eclipse of the Sun will occur on the 15th of March, 1858.

III. The Northern limb of the Moon will be partially Eclipsed on the 4th of November. It will occur at 16 minutes past 4 p.m., but as the Moon will then be below the horizon, it will not be visible in Canada.

IV. The Sun will be totally Eclipsed on the 20th of November. Invisible here. Visible in South America and on the South Atlantic Ocean.

DIRECTIONS FOR FINDING THE TRUE TIME.

The Sun is on the meridian at 12 o'clock on four days only in the year. It is sometimes as much as $16\frac{1}{2}$ minutes before or after twelve when its shadow strikes the noon-mark on the sun-dial. On each calendar page of this Almanac is shown the exact time when the sun reaches the meridian, or the shadow the noon-mark; and in order to set a clock or watch correctly, it must, when it is noon by the sun-dial or noon-mark, be set at the time indicated in the Almanac. Thus, on the 15th of January, when the Sun is on the noon-mark, the watch must be set 10 minutes past twelve, which will be the true time. The practice of setting time-pieces by the rising or setting of the Sun or Moon, is not strictly correct, as the unevenness of the earth's surface and intervening objects, such as hills and forests, near the points of rising and setting, occasion a deviation in every place, from the time expressed in the Almanac, which time is adapted to a smooth, level horizon. The only means of keeping correct time, is by the use of a noon-mark, or a meridian-line.