

THE GREAT SOLAR ECLIPSE.

The American papers are making a great noise about the proposed expedition to Oregon to take scientific notes of the great solar eclipse. We sincerely hope that some addition may be made to the aggregate wisdom of mankind by this trip. At the same time our readers must be aware that there are other eclipses which now and then blur the moral horizon, as significant, and perhaps more worthy of study, than the one which is to engage the attention of savants on the 18th proximo. We have seen many such, and without moralizing after the manner of *Esop*, for as we hate, after reading a clever story, to be bored with a dull, self-evident moral tacked at the end, we shall give a strictly correct narrative, leaving the moral to take its chance—to be drawn or ignored as the humor of the reader may lead him. Perhaps, as we are constantly misinterpreted, we ought to tell the vigilant scandle-monger (albeit he is scarcely worth the trouble) that we do not mean Tom Toddyful or Sam Swillitoff or any of the young gentlemen whom busy suspicion may point at as the hero of this article; we refer to no one individually for we utterly repudiate the imputation of personality. But to our story.

The luminary, whose obscurity we are describing, is not the fiery body about which we and all things mortal are being whirled at a speed positively frightful to think on. No benighted heathen basking in his beams, ever fell prostrate to worship him. He is but a simple mortal, and yet, like all of us, he has a light which may lead his fellows in the way of happiness, or lure them through the fens and quag-mires on the other road. On a certain day, in a certain year and in a certain place, the eclipse was duly observed by a select assemblage in a certain place. At 8.30 p.m. precisely, after imbibing three glasses of Morton's proof, the first obscurity was noted. Gradually the entire disc became visibly darkened. The moon's shadow in the shape of several extra glasses of proof, not merely added to the obscurity, but produced some alarming phenomena. For instance at 10.15 the theory of binocular vision became utterly untenable. Instead of comparing notes and coming to the same conclusion, his oculars obstinately refused to coincide in their observations, and each insisted on setting up in business on its own hook. Gradually the obscurity deepened; the eclipse which had been annular, whilst the ring of admirers encircled our luminary became total at 12.15 a.m., at which hour one of the guardians of the night picked up the falling star in one of the most respectable of our filthy city gutters. Borne home on the shoulders of civic property, the bright light subsided in darkness; the entire disc being utterly invisible. As the sun sinks beneath the western flood, as the bud unfolds its head beneath its wing, as the rooster buries its right leg in its feathers, and as the plums in little Jack Horner's Christmas pie sank uncomplaining down his youthful throat, so in silence and at night this youthful luminary retreated into gloom. At 9.15 the last contact of the shadow took place when our new light arose to don his diurnal face again. At 10.30 the last touch of the penumbra vanished in a glass of soda water and brandy, and the great eclipse was over.

It lasted over 14 hours.

LAW SOCIETY.

EASTER TERM, 28 V.I.O.

Barristers Examination.

- Question 1. If an Act of Parliament says that no Tavern-keeper shall be qualified to sit in a Municipal Council, is Alderman John Smith entitled to the seat which he at present holds in the Toronto City Council?
- Question 2. Is there any Law requiring Municipal Councillors to act as gentlemen while transacting Municipal business?
- Question 3. Give your opinion as to the advisability of having a certain educational test to which Aldermen and Councillors would have to submit themselves before they could be considered qualified to act as trustees of the Corporation affairs.
- Question 4. Is not the profession of the Law already too full?
- Question 5. Does the legal opinion of Alderman Bob Moodie carry any weight with it.
- Question 6. Which is the more beneficial?—Attendance on law lectures or "keeping Attorneys' term."
- Question 7. Which has the most impudence, a young barrister or an old one.
- Question 8. Would it be advisable for the Law Society to provide new and respectable wigs for its officers.
- Question 9. Would it be beneficial to law students to place in the Library at Osgoode Hall, copies of the following new works, *Atty. Gen. McDonald on Perjury*, *Foley on Springing Uses*, *John Ross on Railway Jobbing*, and *Ryerson on Contingent Remainders*.
- Question 10. Which is the more characterized by conscientiousness—Common Law practice or Chancery practice.
- Question 11. Who makes the most money from pickings, a City Councillor or a Member of Parliament.
- Question 12. Should a Lawyer refuse a fee? Did you ever hear of a Lawyer doing so? If yes. What is his name, where was he born, and what does he do now for a living.

The Japanese.

—We understand a petition is now in course of signature, imploring the corporation not to inflict upon the Japanese Embassadors, should they come within a hundred miles of Toronto, their civic hospitalities, as it has been ascertained beyond cavil that the members of the embassy are quite sensible people and have been accustomed to associate with respectable company.

We hope it will be numerously signed, as a proof that our citizens do not desire to take advantage of these inoffensive foreigners, and subject them to an ordeal so barbarous and disgusting.

Fashionable.

—Spicy young gentlemen who desire to shine in all the glory of peg-tops and the other novelties of the day, in the way of dress, may see the latest fashions every afternoon on King street. A certain person in this city, well known as the Beau Brummell of the day, is supplied, so it is said, by one of our most fashionable houses with all the newest styles, merely for wearing them. Who would not be a fop? Hurrah for the walking advertisement!

FALSE HUMORS.

It is not true that the Hon. John A. Macdonald is going to present the address of the Temperance Reformation Society to the Prince.

It is not true that the Hon. Robert Spence has obtained a license to open a saloon on the island.

It is not true that Harry Henry has been gazetted to a captaincy in the Volunteer Rifles.

It is not true that Mr. Jos. Gould, M.P.P., handed a three-cent piece to one of the pages of the House of Assembly, on the breaking up of the Legislature.

It is not true that Messrs. Brown, Foley and Connor shed tears at the meeting of reconciliation, held during the debate on "joint authority."

It is not true that Ald. Vance called one of his colleagues in the Council "a Gentleman."

It is not true that Ald. Sherwood has been spending his evenings of late in the study of elocution and the most graceful gesture in public speaking.

It is not true that Victoria college sells degrees on the principal of the United States one-horse Universities—\$10 each—at least we think it is not.

It is not true that Mr. Munro has retired from the Legislature, and intends devoting the remainder of his days to literary pursuits.

It is not true that Mr. John Beverly Robinson devotes several hours in the day to the study of *McCulloch's Commercial Dictionary*. *Burke on the Sublime and Beautiful* is a more favorite work with him.

It is not true that the Inspector General and Atty. General West have quarrelled in reference to who shall be the maker of the Speaker's wig. Their difference see altogether of a different nature.

It is not true that the Prince De Joinville has been made an honorary member of No. 2 Fire Company.

New Logic.

—A reverend lecturer stated in the Temperance Hall the other evening that it had been objected that total abstinence was neither commended nor commanded in Scripture; to this he replied that there were many sins not particularly named and condemned. "I am not aware" said the speaker, "that piracy is forbidden," therefore total abstinence is a Christian virtue. Now, we always thought that the eighth commandment condemns the appropriation of the property of others whether on sea or land. Piracy is then as much condemned as any other species of robbery. On the other hand total abstinence is not only not commanded but virtually repudiated as a distinctive virtue by the life and example of the Founder of Christianity. A course of Dr. McCaul's lectures on logic would not do the lecturer any harm.

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