

## THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 1869.

BY OUR OWN ASTRONOMER.

DIOGENES, being desirous that the scientific public should be furnished with a correct and scientific report of the eclipse, dispatched his own special *Augur*, or Astronomer, in order that this remarkable event might be properly inaugurated. The following is his report:—

"In compliance with your instructions, I proceeded on the evening of the 7th, at 4 P.M., to the summit of Mount Royal, accompanied by an assistant, for the purpose of reporting upon the phenomena attendant upon this interesting event. We were well provided with all the necessary instruments, including stethoscopes, double-barrelled opera glass, two bottles of Kinahan's LL, smoked glass, tumbler, &c., &c. After a fatiguing journey, we arrived at our destination, and deposited our various paraphernalia. We then deemed it desirable to take a preliminary observation of "*Kinahan*," which was soon accomplished through the medium of our prepared glass. The result was extremely satisfactory, so much so as to tend to the renewal of the experiment, and the consequent exhaustion of *Kinahan* No. 1. A packet of *bird's-eye* was then produced, and, immediately after, it was observed that the atmosphere was obscured by clouds of a light-coloured, fleecy consistency. It was now several minutes past 5 P.M. The first actual contact occurred exactly at 5.5, when, on stooping to arrange the telescope stand, I came into violent collision therewith. A *rose-coloured protuberance* (on the "*os frontis*") soon became distinctly visible; flashes of fire of a brilliant colour danced before my eyes; and I distinctly saw several stars of greater and lesser magnitude. A fresh reference to *Kinahan* resulted in a perceptible increase in the dip. Alcoholic *ozone* was in excess in the atmosphere; considerable dew, (*mountain dew*;) fell, and a remarkable exhilaration of spirits was felt by the observer.

"A renewal of telescopic observations showed great indistinctness of all the coloured rays, a tremulous motion pervaded all surrounding objects, and the observer had some difficulty in keeping his equilibrium. He now distinctly saw several planets, all in different stages of eclipse, each surrounded by a luminous haze, presenting an appearance unparalleled in the annals of astronomy. He cannot but express his surprise that these extraordinary phenomena should have escaped the notice of Dr. Smallwood.

"The tremulous motion of the earth now became so defined, that your astronomer was unable to bring his telescope to bear within several degrees of the desired spot, and being much exhausted from the effects of the sun in his eyes, he was reluctantly compelled to leave the subsequent observations to his assistant, who will doubtless forward a detailed and valuable report."

## NOTE BY THE ASSISTANT.

"I distinctly decline to do anything of the kind. I consider the "*Augur*" a boozy old humbug. I was compelled to carry the whole of the instruments, with the exception of the two bottles of *Kinahan*, which the old rip stuck to most affectionately, and after all my exertions, I got only a miserable half-glass for myself. Before the eclipse had fairly commenced, the wretch was so screwed he could scarcely stand, and if ever you catch me out again with such an old —" Here the Assistant becomes so abusive that the Cynic is obliged to expurgate the rest of his note.

## ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

For the last three weeks, the Cynic has had eclipse on the brain,—has dreamed of eclipse, had his matutinal beef-steak

served up with eclipse, dined off eclipse, supped off eclipse; his family have been wrapped up in eclipse; and the other day, when the Philosopher went to have his hair cut, why, he found that the barber—he *clips* too!

He, therefore, to keep up with the times, despatched a special astronomer, (whose *spirited* report appears above,) to the scene of action; but his suspicions being excited by two mysterious-looking bottles which the S. A. had included among his instruments, the Philosopher resolved to follow him and take observations for himself, and this is what the Cynic saw:—

Talk about leaves drooping! and birds going to roost! The signs discovered by the Philosopher were of far greater omen. Fancy a policeman, on duty,—(the Cynic has his number.)—going into the St. Lawrence Bar to "take a drink!" Imagine hundreds,—hearing that a glass was necessary to observe the eclipse,—making glaziers' shops of the Queens' and the Carlton,—conjure up excited swells for the first time in their lives, making their eye-glasses really useful, and diligently smoking them over a "candle." Not only all these signs of the times, but more. Smoke in great demand. McConkey entirely out of cigars. An immense crowd besieging McGibbon's, and his smoked salmon going off *like* smoke. Our Sick Contributor's Drunkard, (who, for the first time in twenty years, was actually sober,) deceived into the belief that he was in his usual state, owing to the appearance of, what seemed to him, a double sun! The atmosphere so dark, that a man, who had gone to sleep about five o'clock, woke up about six, under the supposition that it was Sunday morning, and started for church, post-haste! One old man, so taken up with watching the eclipse of the *sun*, that when he came down to mundane matters, some one had walked off with his *daughter*! And sundry bank officials, actually forgetting to be impertinent, and only keeping applicants waiting half-an-hour, instead of the usual three-quarters! Picture all these scenes, and you have a few,—and only a few,—of the signs the Cynic saw on Saturday, Aug. 7, '69.

## "VIVE LE ROI."

The *Globe* waxes virtuously indignant over the "vast gambling operations," said to have been carried out in Wall Street by the General Manager of our leading Bank, and denounces, in no measured terms, the "folly and criminality of these transactions."

While fully agreeing in the abstract with the principles laid down by the *Globe*, DIOGENES would venture to suggest, that the statements of the New York Journals on this subject are not unlikely to be somewhat exaggerated, and that cases have occasionally occurred in that city, of sensationalism having slightly predominated over veracity. It is just with the bounds of possibility that these "gigantic gambling operations," may, on examination, resolve themselves into very ordinary and legitimate banking transactions. The *Globe*, in its peroration, describes *three millions and a half* as being at stake, on one turn of the *Rouge et noir* table." The Cynic cannot help fancying that there is some *little* exaggeration here, as it occurs to him that even with the worst turn of the market, the gold purchased would probably be worth something.

However this may be, DIOGENES trusts that, if the "shrewd Canuck," has really got to windward of Wall Street, he will retire on his laurels, and that in future like Banquo's Ghost, he will have "no speculation in his eye."

CON.—When is a host, entertaining his guests, like a ship at sea? When he's out of *port*.