

turbance lasted for nine hours, though it was some days before absolute quiet reigned. The centre of disturbance was near Mount St. Elias, in North-western Canada, but as the Americans own the Pacific coast-line there, we shall hereafter read of it as the great Alaska earthquake. The local effects were terrifying and the region affected by the shocks was 4,000 miles or more in diameter. The contour of the coast-line was permanently changed, parts of islands being swallowed up and well-known land-marks having disappeared. Tidal waves rushed in from the ocean, the waters on submerged reefs were violently agitated and shaken into foam, the waters of inland lakes were let loose, and the sparse Indian inhabitants of the region were greatly frightened. The Rev. S. Jackson, Superintendent of Education of Alaska, was at Yakutat Bay, to which some panic-stricken people fled, and we may expect the full details next summer. Dawson City was badly shaken too. The most extraordinary effect seems to have been the changing of the face of every glacier on the coast, the Muir glacier with the rest, the ice having been fractured for a mile or more from the sea and having slid or been cast into it.

In the immediate future we are looking forward to the sun-eclipse of May 28th next. Expeditions are being organized on the other side of the Atlantic for its thorough observation, especially in Algiers, while on this side, observers will favour Georgia and Alabama, where at that time the least interference from clouds is to be expected, and the chance of a clear sky is seven or eight to one. The corona will not be widely extended, the carmine prominences will probably be small and few, but both, as well as other usual phenomena of total eclipses, will be as interesting as they are rare, including the onrush of the Moon's shadow over the Earth, the mysterious grandeur of which is alone worth going South to see.

I must not close without alluding to the progress of time reform, in which this Society has always taken a deep interest. "One of the great reforms of the last twenty years," says the *Weather Review* of Washington, "has been silently advancing. \* \* This amounts really to an international agreement that longitude and time shall be as far as practicable referred to the Greenwich meridian. \* \* Thus, in the Atlantic States, we use seventy-fifth meridian time, but in the Mississippi river water-shed, ninetieth meridian time, except, perhaps, in the western portion, where the one hundred and fifth is adopted," as it is on the Pacific. The same is the case in Canada, and the system is spreading on the other hemisphere. We have not yet succeeded in having the twenty-four hour