

the valley which he was just crossing was filled with a very dense and cold mist which covered the trees with hoarfrost. All on a sudden he escaped from the mist and found himself again in the full blue sky. The ravine was filled with vapour, resembling the surface of a lake. He was approaching the footpath of the road, when the shadows of the horse and himself were projected on the surface of the mist. These shadows were surrounded by a luminous circle presenting all the colours of the rainbow; the violet being inside and the red outside. All the colours were very vivid. The shadows were separated from the corona by a circle of yellowish hue, and the whole effect was most wonderful.

But the phenomena observed at Adam's Peak, in Ceylon, eclipse all that have been seen of this nature in the whole world. Many travellers have given an account of the remarkable peculiarities, and the Honourable Ralph Abercromby, in his enthusiasm for meteorological research, went there with two scientific friends to witness the strange appearance. This mountain rises in an abrupt cone a thousand feet above the chain and seven thousand three hundred and fifty-two feet above sea-level. It lies near an elbow in the main range, while a gorge runs up from the north-east just to the west of it. When, then, the north-east monsoon blows morning mist up the valley, light wreaths of condensed vapour pass to the west of the peak and catch the shadows at sunrise. The party reached the summit on the night of the 21st of February, 1886, amid rain, mist and wind. Early next morning the fore-glow began to brighten the under-surface of the stratus cloud with

orange; patches of white mist filled the hollows; and sometimes masses of mist, coming from the valley, enveloped them with condensed vapour. At 6.30 a.m. the sun peeped through a chink in the clouds, and they saw the pointed shadow of the peak lying on the misty land. Soon a complete prismatic circle of about eight degrees diameter, with the red outside, formed round the summit of the peak as a centre. The meteorologist, knowing that with this bow there ought to be spectral figures, waved his arms about, and immediately found giant shadowy arms moving in the centre of the rainbow. Two dark rays shot upwards and outwards on either side of the centre, and appeared to be nearly in a prolongation of the lines of the slope of the peak below. Three times within a quarter of an hour this appearance was repeated as mist drove up in proper quantities, and fitful glimpses of the sun gave sufficient light to throw a shadow and form a circular rainbow. In every case the shadow and bow were seen in front of land and never against the sky. When the sun rose pretty high the characteristic peculiarity of the shadow was beautifully observed. As a thin wreath of condensed vapour came up the valley at a proper height a resplendent bow formed round the shadow, while both seemed to stand up majestically in front of the observers, and then the shadow fell down on to the land and the bow vanished as the mist passed on. About an hour later the sun again shone out, but much higher and stronger than before, and then they saw a brighter and sharper shadow of the peak, this time encircled by a double bow; and their own spectral arms were again visible.