

above. The visible part of the emergent sun over its whole breadth and up to the height of seven or eight seconds, was covered by a bed of rosy clouds, which appeared to gain in thickness as they emerged from behind the disc of the moon. Without enlarging on other phenomena noted by the French astronomer, it may suffice here to note that Le Verrier has been led by those to the entire re-construction of the theory hitherto maintained relative to the physical constitution of the sun; and, discarding the idea of a central dark globe, with successive opaque and luminous cloudy or gaseous envelopes, he now inclines to the belief that the sun is a body, luminous simply because of its high temperature, and covered by an unbroken layer of roseate matter, the existence of which he conceives his observations have demonstrated. Other observers, including those who watched the eclipse at Hereña, still adhere to the opinion that the corona and the luminous clouds are alike ascribable to simple optical appearances; and we must not only be content to wait the full publication of the results of the various independent observations, but in all probability reserve for the disclosures of future eclipses, the determination of some of those interesting questions relative to the physical constitution of that central sun which rules the undisputed sovereign of our system, dictates laws to the remotest planet, curbs the blazing comet in his far-wandering aphelion, and measures life, and time, and changing seasons, to all the worlds revolving in its train.

But from this department of the history of scientific progress during the past year, in which Canada has been honorably represented, though on a scale greatly inferior to what a just ambition would lead us to desire, I turn to glance at another sphere of labor. Among recent actions connected with the practical applications of science, most nearly related to our own immediate sympathies, none is, perhaps, calculated to awaken a deeper interest than the expedition of Sir Leopold McClintock to survey the projected North Atlantic route for a new telegraphic cable between Great Britain and America. It recalls to us the memory of high hopes wrecked in the very hour of triumph. After repeated disappointments, and when every mind was prepared for failure, we all remember when, on the fifth of August, 1858, the news flashed along all telegraphic lines on the American continent that the *Niagara* and *Gorgon* steamers had reached Trinity Bay with their portion of the Atlantic cable intact; and on the same memorable fifth of August the *Agamemnon* communicated by its means the