

AN ECLIPSE.

The Next Year to Be Ushered In by the
Obscuration of the Sun.

From the monthly notices of the Royal Astronomical Society of London, for January, 1888, is taken the following interesting note on the total solar eclipse of January 1, 1889, by J. R. Hind, LL.D., F.R.S.:

The belt of totality in the solar eclipse on January 1st next traverses California, where at that season favorable atmospheric conditions for observation may be anticipated with some degree of confidence. The central line meets the American Coast at Point Arena, traversing the State of California in the direction of Pilot Peak, which is also close upon the central eclipse. At Point Arena totality commences at 1h 30m 33s local mean time, or at 1h 45m 53s Pacific standard time, and continues 2m 3s, according to the elements of the Nautical Almanac, the Sun at an altitude of 25°. At Pilot Peak totality commences at 1h 45m 54s local mean time, or at 1h 49m 46s Pacific standard time, and continues 1m 57s, with the Sun at an altitude of 23°. Between these points the central eclipse crosses the track of the Central Pacific Railroad, or rather branches of that line, north of Colusa. Probably any observers proceeding from Europe for the observation of this phenomenon will not care to locate themselves east of the Sierra Nevadas, the duration of totality of course diminishing with decreasing westerly longitude, and the Sun's altitude also becoming less, so that in 103° 29' W. and 46° 39' N., close on the central line, the total eclipse begins at 3h 4m 14s local mean time, and continues 1m 25s with the Sun at an altitude of only 9°. The main line of the Central Pacific appears to be again crossed near Oreana.

At Mendocino totality commences at 1h 22m 47s local mean time, and continues 1m 45s. At San Francisco and its suburbs, Alameda, Oakland and Berkeley (the seat of the University of California, now presided over by our associate, Professor Holden), the eclipse, though very large, will not be total.

At San Francisco the magnitude is 0.987, and it is to be regretted that the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton is not within the shadow. The greatest eclipse occurs there at 1h 45m local mean time; magnitude, 0.974.

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