Astronomy: a diagram showing how to determine longitude. Coloured engraving by J. Emslie, 1851, after himself.

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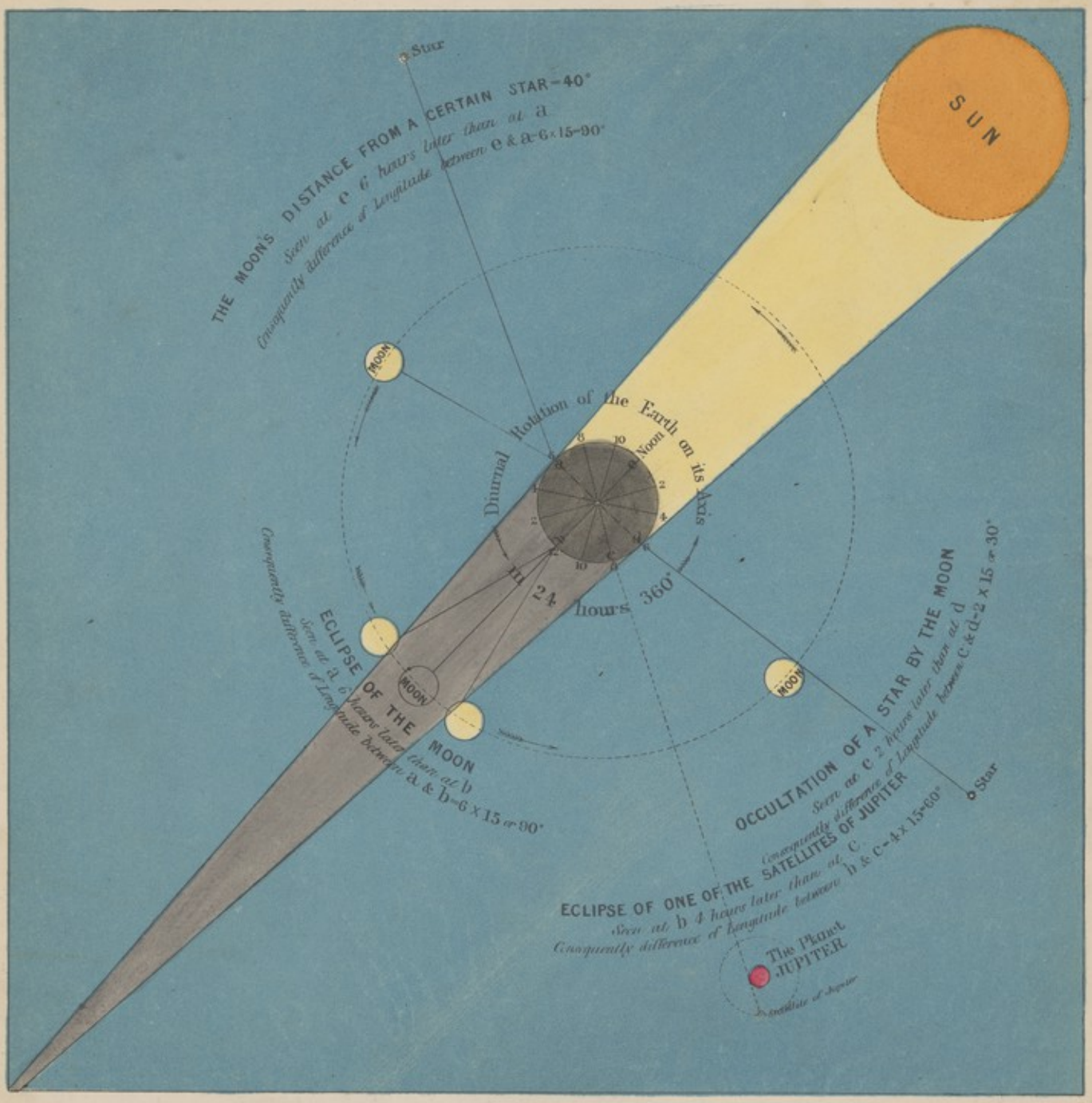
METHODS OF ASCERTAINING

THE LONGITUDE.



The exact time at which the various movements in the Heavens, indicated on the Diagram, take place at Greenwich is known, and are stated for the use of seamen and others, in the "Nautical Almanac."

In order, therefore, to determine the Longitude of any place, let the observer determine the precise time at which the Sun passes its meridian (noon); let him then watch for one of the above movements, and note the time which elapsed between its becoming visible at Greenwich and at his own station, which is easily done by referring to his Almanac, and he will know the difference of Longitude. Suppose an Eclipse of the Moon to be visible at Greenwich at Two p.m., which at the place of observation becomes visible only at Eight p.m., the difference of Longitude would be six hours, or six times fifteen, equal to ninety degrees. In a similar manner, if we observe an Eclipse of one Jupiter's Satellites from C at Ten a.m., which at Greenwich takes place at Eight p.m., or ten hours later, the difference of Longitude would be 150 degrees.

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