

Speculum mundi: or, an exact account of the great and formidable eclipse of the sun, which will be visible, total, and central, in England, May 11, 1724 ... / [Anon].

Contributors

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Of the Great
ECLIPSE
OF THE
SUN, 1724.

(Price One Shilling.)

Fig. I.

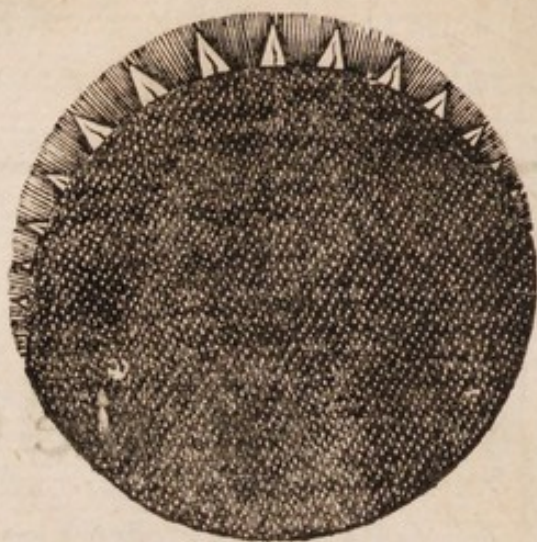


Fig. II.

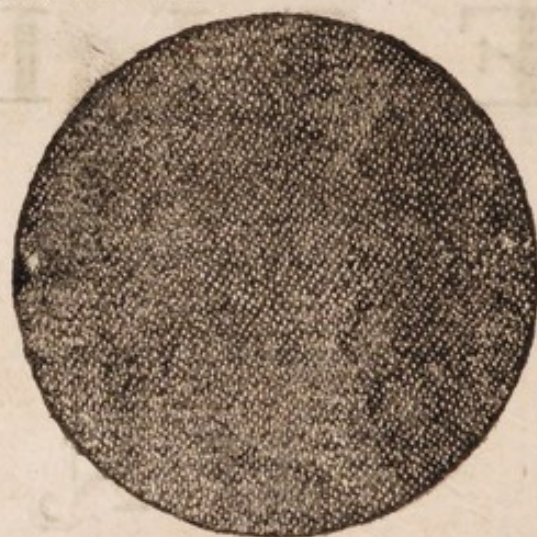
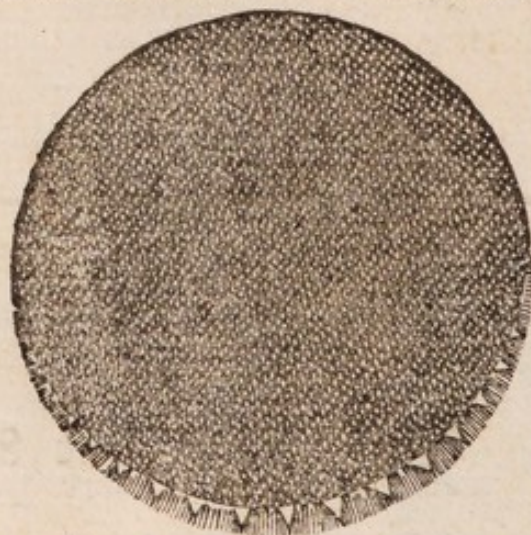


Fig. III.



5.

Speculum Mundi :

Or, an Exact
A C C O U N T
Of the Great and Formidable
E C L I P S E
O F T H E
S U N,

Which will be
Visible, Total, and Central,

I N
E N G L A N D,

May 11, 1724.

Shewing,

The true Time of the Beginning, Middle, and End of it; with its Quantity and Duration, as it will appear at *London*.

A L S O,

The Names of those Cities and Towns in *England* where it will be total, and on what Side of the Sun's Body the Light will be seen, and how much, where it is not total.

W I T H

The various Events and Contingencies which are likely to succeed it in the several Parts of the World therein concern'd.

Astra regunt Homines, sed regit Astra Deus.

L O N D O N,
Printed for J. Roberts, at the Oxford-Arms in Warwick-Lane, 1723.

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TO THE
READER.



Although I have in Chap. V. explain'd what is meant by Digits Eclipsed, and how it is to be understood; yet for the Benefit of those that may not understand the Quantity of the Eclipse thereby, I have
pre-

To the Reader.

prefixt the three Cuts in the Frontispiece, and distinguish'd them by Fig. 1. Fig. 2. Fig. 3. The uppermost, or Fig. 1. shews some Light on the North, or North North-East Side of the Sun's Body, and represents the Appearance of the Sun at Hull, Stockton, Newcastle, Carlisle, Chester, and those Northern Parts. The Cut Fig. 2. is the Appearance of the Sun where the Eclipse is total; as at Waterford in Ireland, also at Pembroke in Wales, Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, &c. The Cut Fig. 3. is the Figure of the Sun with a small Thread of Light on the South, or South South-West Side of the Sun's Body, as it will appear at the Lizard, Falmouth, &c. but at London there will a very small Thread of Light appear on the North Side of the Sun, according to the Calculation, and so further to the Northward there will the more Light appear; nay, although I have inserted a Cut Fig. 1. to give a general View of the Sun in the North of England, yet strictly there will be more Light seen on the North Side of the Sun at Newcastle, than at Hull; and so in proportion as Places be more to the
North-

To the Reader.

Northward, and the same in proportion as the Places upon the Earth that have the Sun, enlightned on the South Side, ly more to the Southward.

If those that delight in these sort of Studies, and are fitted with proper Instruments, whether in England or Abroad, in what Part of the World soever, would please to be curious in observing carefully the Beginning, Middle, and End of this Eclipse, with the Quantity eclipsed, &c. or as many of those Particulars as their Opportunities will permit, and communicate their Observations, they would be thankfully received, and might contribute to the confirming the Truth of our present Astronomical Table, or to the making them more perfect and compleat, and rectifying their present Errors, if any yet remain.

Hea-

To the Reader.

(Sphere,
Heaven's great Machine, the Motions of the
Engage our Minds, as Musick doth the Ear ;
No Harmony so pleasant can appear
Revolving, to appearance with Equation,
Yet always answer strictest Calculation.

(run,
Whilst frightned Mortals from their Labour
In deep Surprize, to see the glorious Sun
Look dark and black, his Face behind a
(Veil,
So frighted they, their Hearts and Spirits fail :
Our Thoughts of our Creator soar much higher,
Not only Power, but Providence admire.



CHAP. I.

Of the Certainty of Astronomical Calculation, and Planetary Influence.



THE wonderful Harmony wherewith the Heavenly Bodies perform their various Motions and Offices, and the Exactness of their several Revolutions, justly render them worthy the Observation and Contemplation of thinking People, and may be a convincing Argument, that the immense Number of *Fixed Stars*, and the Expanse in which they move; as also the *Erratics*, and the Order which they observe, were made for higher Purposes, than for the meer Speculation of humane Beings.

We see how by the indefatigable Study and Application of our Modern Artists, the Motions of the Planets are so exactly discovered, their Inequalities so well adjusted, and, in short, the present Astronomy founded upon such a true and sound Hypothesis, and brought so near to Perfection, that it is not now thought a difficult

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Task

Task amongst Artists, not only to ascertain those Points previous to Eclipses in general, as the Time of the New and Full Moon, (which are all the Times at which Eclipses can happen) or whether the Moon shall, in her Conjunction with the Sun, pass over his Body, and thereby hide his Light from some part of this Terraqueous Globe, and cause, as it is commonly called, an Eclipse of the Sun: Or whether the Full Moon shall, in her Opposition to the Sun, pass through the Cone of the Earth's Shadow, and cause an Eclipse of the Moon, or go clear without it; we have, I say, acquired not only the exact Knowledge of these general Points previous to Eclipses, but even the nicest Particulars in Eclipses themselves; nay, in those of the Sun, which are the most intricate; yet it is evident even to Demonstration, that we are come to a Certainty about them as to Calculation, and that even to a Second of Time.

N. B. What is commonly called an Eclipse of the Sun, ought rather to be called an Eclipse of the Earth; for the Sun at that Time suffers no Eclipse, only the dark and opaque Body of the Moon, when moving in or near the Ecliptick, having little or no Latitude, and thereby interposing herself between us and the Sun, deprives us of his Light; and that is what we call an Eclipse of the Sun.

Indeed the Case is otherwise in Eclipses of the Moon; for when the Moon happens to be in Opposition to the Sun, and hath little or no Latitude, the Earth interposeth between the Sun and her, and really deprives her of the Light of the Sun, in whole, or in part, according as she has

more

more or less visible Latitude, or none at all; for the Earth always moves in the Ecliptick, and never hath any Latitude.

Nor are we less certain in the so long disputed Point of the Influence of the Heavenly Bodies upon the Earth, and upon its Production, Elements, and Inhabitants, upon which much of the Beauty and Value, as well as the Uses and best Purposes of Astral Studies do depend.

What Ploughman or Farmer knows not that the Approach of the Sun towards us, (or more properly our Approach towards him) causeth the Spring; that his Presence for a Time, ripens the Fruits of the Earth; and that his Absence, by a Deprivation of *Heat*, introduces and makes way for the opposite Quality *Cold*, and its Concomitants, which we call Winter; which, during that Deprivation of Heat and Nourishment, does in some measure put a stop to all Vegetation?

What common Seaman but knows, by daily Experience, that the Tides are governed by the revolving Motions of the Moon; and that we can as certainly (generally speaking) Predict the Time of High or Low Water from thence, at any known Port of the World, as we can the Approach of Night, by what we call the Setting of the Sun?

Or who can deny what Experience has so often confirmed about the Influence of the Moon, not only upon inanimate Bodies, but even upon the Bodies, Tempers, and Sences of Men? How do we visibly discern the Effect of the Increase of the Moon in Lunacies and Deliriums among Men; in Moon-blind Horses; in the Delivery of
Women

Women with Child ; in the Return of acute Diseases ; and even in the Article of Death, when Men, who, by their languishing, and as it were struggling with the Pangs of Death, often either expire, or change for the better, upon the Change of the Moon.

Also in planting Vegetables, we have abundant Demonstrations of the same in several nice Plants, requiring us to set them into, or take them out of the Earth at the full or new of the Moon. And Herbs to be gathered at the same Time, to preserve their Flavour and Vertue. Seeds to be sown at such a Time, in order to strengthen the Sap and Juices ; in consequence of which their Flowers shall be double or single, the Plant strong or small, *and the like.*

Upon this Foundation, namely, the Verity of Astronomy, and the Certainty, as above, of our Discoveries and Calculations, all that may be depended upon in the further Improvements we daily make is built ; as also all that may be expected in our further Search after Astronomical Knowledge. And we have Reason from thence to believe, that the Time will come, when a compleat System may be drawn, as well of the Effects, as of the Causes of all the Phænomena of the starry World.

Then we shall be able indeed to say, that our Study of Astronomy is brought to its full Perfection ; and we shall not only be able to demonstrate, that the Planetary World has an Influence upon the sublunary World ; but shall be able to ascertain the Extent of its Influence, and how, and by what Manner it is performed, and for what Purposes designed.

C H A P. II.

Of the various Opinions concerning the Influence of Heavenly Bodies upon this Sublunary World.

Nothing is more difficult in our Search into the *Arcana* of the Heavenly Motions and Influences, than to steer between the two Extreams, which at present engross common Opinion in the World, relating to the Influence which those Heavenly Bodies have, or *have not*, upon the Affairs of Men.

Some are for looking upon the extraordinary Conjunctions, and other Phænomena of the Planetary World, and all the Influence of the Stars, to be portentous and predicting, and that the Voice of Heaven speaks in them all in a particular and extraordinary Manner, that they never happen but for such Occasions, and that they are always appointed as Heaven's Warning-Pieces, to direct the World, and cause Men to open their Eyes to what is to follow; that there is not a Comet, a Meteor, or any other luminous or fiery Body seen in the Air, but we are to look upon it as a Beacon fired, by Divine Appointment, to give Notice of some approaching Calamity; and *that* so we are to prepare for them in a particular and extraordinary Manner; *and that* all the assigning of natural Causes to those things favours of Atheism, and at least ought to be no Impeachment of the particular

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Appointment, which Providence may have directed them to; but *that* we ought always to set them apart, in our Regard to such solemn Uses and Purposes as are the chief End of their Appearances.

OTHERS, on the contrary, seeing not only the Causes of these Appearances are to be accounted for by Art; but even that there is an indispensable Necessity of their appearing, and that too at such certain Times and Seasons to a Moment, and that those Times and Seasons may, by just Calculation, be determined even to a Second of Time, cast off all Thoughts of their being significant one way or other in the Affairs of the World, and totally exclude the Government of Providence from any Concern with them, or making any Uses of them whatsoever as to predicting, much less influencing sublunary Affairs of any kind whatsoever.

Our Business, *as above*, is to steer carefully between these two dangerous Shoars, and without falling upon *Scylla* or *Charybdis*, preserve the safe Medium amongst all Extreams, reconciling the Significance of their Phænomena, and their Influences upon humane Affairs; as also the Possibility and Demonstration of their being the Effects of natural Causes, with our being able to give a reasonable Account of those natural Causes, and both together, with the Wisdom of that Providence which has given us reason to believe, that both are of his Divine appointing.

And then who is it, that after a due Consideration, would deny the Influence of Eclipses for no other Reason, but because they proceed from natural Causes. Methinks, when such natural Causes are assigned, and proved by constant Ex-

perience, it would rather corroborate the Belief of the Effect than abate it? Who will deny, but that the inconceivable Velocity of a Ball from a Gun proceeds from a natural Cause; namely, the firing the Powder, by the Heat of which the sudden and violent Rarefaction of the confined Air is occasioned, which being so immensely expanded, and finding no Vent but at the Muzzle of the Cylinder, or Barrel, breaks out with a Violence proportionable to the Dilatation of the confined Air, by which the Ball acquires its rapid Motion; and yet though there is such an almost instantaneous Succession of natural Causes, which concur to put the Ball in Motion, its Effect is not the less fatal where it hits, merely for its proceeding from natural Causes. And the Truth hereof is so evident in all other Cases, that it may be allowed as a stated Maxim, that *Things proceeding from natural Causes do not lessen their Effects*; nay rather, when natural Causes may be, and are assign'd, which have always been proved to have such Effects, and which, according to the *Nature*, the *Sympathy*, *Antipathy*, or *Magnetism* of things, cannot, while *Nature* operates, pass without such Effects; who will deny, but that the like Causes appearing, like Effects may be justly and certainly predicted, as the growing of Vegetables may, by the Approach of the Sun and warm Showers of Rain, or any other thing that has its Dependence upon second Causes.

C H A P. III.

What kind of Influence it may be supposed to be, which the Heavenly Bodies have over the sublunary World.

THIS is an important Question, and admits of a great deal of Debate; but avoiding all the Cavils of those who would take away, even from Providence it self, its whole Share of Concern in the disposing of humane Affairs, I shall confine my self to that Part which seems more particularly the present Business, and is contained in the following Heads.

1. That which is demonstrable, and admits of no Dispute.
 2. That which is reasonably supposed, and is drawn from Possibility, Probability, and Experience, though in some Cases disputable.
- I. That which is demonstrable, and admits of no Dispute, and this relates to the particular Cases mentioned before, such as,
1. The Influence of the Sun upon the Seasons of the Year.
 2. The Influence of the Moon upon the Tides and Plants, and Bodies of Men and Beasts.

3. The

3. The Influence of the Planets and fixed Stars upon Plants, the Bodies of Men, and the Temperature of the Weather, and the like.

These Three Particulars under the first Head, I have touch'd upon already; and as they are *demonstrable, and admit of no Dispute*, I shall not trouble the Reader with them.

But, 2. *That which is reasonably supposed, and is drawn from Possibility, Probability, and Experience, and yet supposed in some Cases disputable*; and that is the supposed Influence of the Starry World upon this Sublunary Globe; and if I prove that there is a secret Communication of Affections, whether Sympathetick, Magnetick, and consequently mutual between this gross and coarse Planet the Earth, and the rest of its near Relations the other Planets (*for they are all of a Family, and equally dark, without the Assistance of their self-illuminated Primary the Sun*) then I shall effectually clear the Way to all that follows, and leave it out of doubt, that such extraordinary Phænomena as this of a Central Eclipse of the Sun, is not without some extraordinary Signification.

Whether there is a Communication of Affections between the Starry World and us, is then the first and great Question to be decided; and the Affirmative I prove by the uncontroverted Article of Experience, as follows.

1. The Influence of the Moon upon the Bodies of Men, Animals, and Plants, and also upon the Tides, and in several other Cases. The *Moon-blind Horse* is clear-sighted all the Wane of the Moon, and all the first Quarter, but grows thick Ey'd and dim all the second Quarter, till at the

Full Moon he will run against a Post, or leap down a Precipice; nay, in a Word, he is *stark blind*. So a Man that is distempered in his Brain, shall, during the Wane of the Moon, or from three Days after the Full, till three Days after the Change, be calm and sedate as another Man, and have all his Senses in full Exercise; but in the Increase, or when the Moon is above three Days old, he gradually loses his Memory, then his Reason and Judgment, then begins to say a thousand extravagant things, till at the Full Moon, and two or three Days after, he shall grow raving, nay, quite mad, so as to be fitter to be tied in Bed than be convers'd with.

2. As to the Influence of the Sun upon the Elements, the Weather, and the vegetative System, and also upon the *Bodies of Men*, also is as evident as the other. 'Tis observed, that the vernal Equinox brings Storms of Wind: The Autumnal, Storms of Rain: At the Winter Solstice, dark and thick Calms, which has been the Occasion of it's being called the black Month before *Christmas*. At the Summer Solstice, suffocating Heat and Drought; and in the Dog-Days (so called, because the Sun rises with the great Dog) then we find Fevers, Epilepsies, Apoplexies, &c. and the like. Also upon the Animal, or rather inanimate World, both Sun and Moon have their visible and indisputable Influence, as in the Fish in the Sea, particularly the Shoals of Herrings, Pilchards, and Mackerel, and the like. The Herrings as certainly come into our Seas when the Sun enters *Leo*, as the Sun is certain to enter into that Sign. And as for the Influence of the Moon, Experience teacheth, that the same Herrings shall rise at the Full

of the Moon, and come freely to the Net; and in the Wane of the Moon, shall be gone for several Days together, as if retired from humane Eyes, or out of the Reach of their Enemies.

Again in the Weather, when it has been a long Frost, a long Drought, or the like, it is so common for it to break or alter at, or near the Change or Full of the Moon, that the most ignorant, illiterate, or common People, that know nothing of Planetary Motions, yet will enquire when the Moon will change, &c. expecting that the Lunation will be attended with some apparent Alteration, as Rain after long Drought, Thaw after tedious Frost, and the like; Also of stormy, wet Weather, and unseasonable Rains, which often alter at, or immediately after the New Moon; and to this we may add the Influence of the other Planets, and even of the fixed Stars, as the violent Winds in *September* at the Rising of *Arcturus* with the Sun; and the Colds in *December*, at his setting with the Sun; and what we now mentioned, the excessive Heat at the Rising of the great Dog, called from thence the Dog Days, with many other Instances which might be produced.

Again, as the Stars and Planets thus influence the Seasons and the Weather, the Weather again influences humane Bodies, or rather, those Stars and Planets that influence the Weather, do at the same Time influence humane Bodies; for we find People, especially those that are ancient or distempered, do feel the Change of Seasons in their Limbs, before it is perceived in the Air. And hence it is common for them, upon the Return of an old Ach or Pain, to predict Change of Weather, as they call it, and that before the

Weather is changed; therefore it cannot be said to be the Change of Weather that immediately affects them, but the same Planetary Influence that acts upon the Weather, acts upon them, and that so sensibly and convincingly, that they can, to their great Disturbance, perceive it before it is perceived in the Air.

And as our Distempers and Diseases, so our Passions and Inclinations, Tempers and Dispositions are affected and influenced by the Planets and Stars, according to their particular Constitution. Thus *Mars*, a fiery Planet, is said to move the Passions and Inclinations of Men to rash, hot and furious Undertakings; *Saturn*, to more dull and flegmatick Inclinations and Performances, and slow and deliberate Councils; *Venus*, to lewd, vicious Intrigues, and the like.

And as in their particular Influences over Men, so in their general Influences over Kingdoms and States; Thus *Saturn* stirs up Conspiracies, Breach of Leagues, &c. while *Mars* creates Wars and Blood-shed; and so according to the Nature and Position of the Planet, with his Strength, or Weakness, and the like, oftentimes follow raging epidemical Distempers, Plagues, Sweating-Sickness, and infectious Diseases, by the starry Influence and Motions of the Planets, Comets, &c.

From this, by a Climax of Inferences, may be deduced the evident Significance of the Planetary Motions and their Revolutions, and of their being what we call the Forerunners of great Events; for it is more than rational to say, such Motions may probably be the Forerunners of those things which it is more than probable they are the Causes of.

For Example: If this or that blazing Comet may, by its Constitution, Position, fiery Quality, or monstrous Quantity of noxious Vapours, or any other thing to be observed from the Malignity of the said Comet, be rationally supposed to fill the lower Region of the Air with poisonous and mortal Particles, fatal to the Constitution of Man, or Beast, or Plant, 'tis highly rational to infer, that such a Comet shall be followed by Plague and Pestilence, or by the Sterillity of Season, and consequently Famine, the vegetative Life suffering Infection or Stagnation; or by Murrain, that is, Plague upon the Cattle, or the like.

Nor does this at all lessen our due Regard to the sovereign Hand of Providence disposing the greatest Events in the World; for as Heaven, in all the great and most formidable Judgments and Visitations wherewith he afflicts the Sons of Men, is pleased to work by the ordinary Operation of natural Causes, so he produces the great Cause of his Visitation from other Causes as effectual, and perhaps more powerful than the rest.

Hence it was observable, that before the Time of the great Plague in the Year 1665, the judicious Observers of things in those Times, published the certain Approach of that terrible Judgment, and that with such an assured predicting Spirit, that they were threatned with being questioned for it by Authority; but they did it not only upon the Foot of Planetary Configurations, tho' a great Conjunction of the Superiors happened a little while before, but also from the appearing of two terrible Comets, one in *December* 1664, and the other in *March* following.

lowing, upon which, according to their Predictions, followed the dismal Plague in the Year 1665, and the dreadful Fire of *London* in the Year 1666.

It was observed, that several of those Calculators, who foretold the said Plague, perished in it, and the People began to make a Jest of their Art, and ridicule their Predictions, because they could not prophesy to themselves what Share they should have in the Calamity: but this is highly unjust, the things being of a quite different Nature, and the Calculation made by different Rules, and which have no Relation one to another: For it is one thing to foretel what may threaten a whole Nation, the Situation and Position of which may place it under the apparent Influence of such or such a Conjunction, or such or such a Revolution; but it is another thing to tell what or how far, this or that particular Person shall be affected or reach'd by such an Influence, the natural Subjection of such a Person to the Influence not being discovered, nor in a Condition possibly to be discovered by the same Calculation which discovered that of the Nation or City in which he lived.

If it be objected, that they ought to have entered into a Search after their own, and have calculated their own Parts, so as to come at a Certainty in a Point which they were so eminently concerned in. I answer, with some indeed it might have been practicable to do so, but in others, perhaps, it might not. For Example: If we allow the Accidents of the Natives Lives to have a Dependance upon the Positions, Aspects, and Configurations of the Planets at the Birth of the Native, and the Directions, Profecions, and Revolutions
drawn

drawn from thence; yet suppose an Artist could not get Information of the Time of his Birth, and consequently could not come at the Knowledge of the Particular he was under, as it is very probable might be the Case with many of them, Art then could furnish no Rules for him to form any Deduction from; for we have no *Daniels* in this Art, *However, at this Time,* who can tell the Dream and the Interpretation too.

And it is not improbable, that this might be the Case with some of those Men that had Skill enough to predict the publick Calamity; and yet, for want of such particular Data relating to themselves, could have no Knowledge of what should be their own Fate in it. But on the contrary, as many others of the same Fraternity did fly, and so were preserv'd, and escaped the Evil, 'tis more than probable, that they were such as might have had the Opportunity, and the Industry too, to make just Calculations for themselves; and that the Reason that they saw to believe that if they had staid they should have fallen in the common Destruction, might be the only Motive which put them upon so removing as conduced to their Safety.

But if besides these two sorts (to wit, those that did calculate and take the Warning, and those that had no Data and therefore in their own particular Case could not calculate) there were a third sort, that after a due Calculation for themselves, would slight the Warning, for no other Reason, but because they understood the natural Causes and Revolutions of such Phænomena; such Knowledge would not protect them from the common Calamity, any more than the

understanding the true Philosophical Reason why the firing the Powder in a Gun gives the Ball such violent Motion, should preserve the Person, so understanding it, from the fatal Influence thereof; yet Experience proves such Men are no more preserved than the most ignorant Spectator that knows nothing of the matter.

CH A P. IV.

Of the Reasons of this Work.

HAVING then in the first Place a firm and unshaken Belief or Opinion,

1. That all these things have their Signification, as above.
2. Particularly that the extraordinary Phenomena, which offers to our View, in the approaching Year, portend several uncommon surprizing Events.
3. And above all, I find some Reason already visible, at least to me, that this particular Appearance of the Eclipse of the Sun, which is to happen in *May 1724*, will be a Forerunner of something more than common to this Part of *Europe*.

For these Reasons, I was first prevail'd with to look further into this Year than I have done into any since the late total and visible Eclipse of the Sun, which was in the Year 1715.

Nor is this all, for the ordinary Calculations upon this Subject have had their Share in my Resolution for a further Examination. For if looking a little way into this Deep of great Events, gave me a Hint of more surprizing Discoveries being still behind, let no Man be surprized at my subsequent Curiosity. He that digging for Lead, finds Gold in the Mine, is not to be wondred at, if his Curiosity is quickned to search further, and dig deeper than he would otherwise have done; nor that he gives not over his Search, till he has just Reason to think, that there is nothing more to be discovered.

This Eclipse discovers it self to be big with great and important Events, especially to some Part of the World, in which my Interest is too great to be thoughtless or unconcern'd about what shall, or shall not be impending over them. *Wars, and Rumours of Wars, and Commotions, and Distresses of Nations, Mens Hearts failing them for fear,* were foretold in Scripture to be the Fore-runners of the Ruine of the *Jewish* State, with their Temple and capital City. And when the Time drew near, there were Signs in the Heavens, and Signs in the Earth, *a blazing Comet* appear'd at *Jerusalem*, and also a Meteor in the Shape of a flaming Sword hanging over the Temple, with Voices, Earthquakes, and the like. No doubt the hardned *Jews* made a Ridicule of those things, and told the affrighted People, that they were only common Appearances, for which natural Causes might be assigned; that they were ordinary in all Countries, and that there had frequently been such things abroad, but that nothing fatal had ensued, and perhaps so led
D them

them on in Security to their own Destruction.

I have heard say, that the *Jews* have a Tradition, that there was a terrible Comet, or blazing Star, appear'd in the Heavens some time before the Destruction of *Sodom* and *Gomorrhah*, and that it was the same Comet that appear'd in its Revolution, almost 2000 Years afterwards, at the Destruction of *Jerusalem*, as above; but whether this be so or not, is not material. However, it is not questioned by any Writer, Christian or *Jewish*, but that this Appearance of a Star, before the Destruction of *Jerusalem*, not only foretold that Desolation, but was a Warning to the *Jews*, if they had been wise and docible enough to have taken the Hint, and made their Escape out of the City, thereby to avoid sinking in the common Ruine of their Country, which, it's probable, they might have done; for it's apparent from the Account *Josephus* gives of that Calamity, that those who did take the Warning, and fled out of the City to the *Romans*, had their Lives spared, and escaped the common Fate of their obstinate and hardned Brethren.

And why the same Notice should not now be taken of any extraordinary Phænomena, or Appearance of the heavenly Bodies, and more especially of this great Eclipse, I think no Man can give any found Reason to prove. These, and other Considerations, will, I doubt not, make any Body conclude with me, that it is a Work not unworthy our particular Notice, to enquire what may be approaching behind the Curtain of Futurity, in consequence of this wondrous Eclipse.

And

And as I have taken notice of the inseparable Connexion between natural Causes and their Effects, so also those Effects are more or less apparent, as the Cause is greater or less in it self, or in its Accidents and Circumstances. Thus the greater and nearer the Fire, the more intense the Heat; the nearer and more lucid the Blaze of a Candle, the more splendid the Light, and the nearer and greater the Magnet, the more powerful the Attraction. I conclude we may from hence form this Maxim, *the nearer and GREATER the Cause, the STRONGER the Effect*; and this Consideration hath put me upon entertaining the World with an Astronomical and Astrological Account of this Eclipse, assuring my self, that if the Maxim be true, which I think none will deny, namely, *that there is a Proportion between the Cause and the Effect*; then this *GREAT, VISIBLE, TOTAL, AND CENTRAL* Eclipse, is worthy our strictest Observation, because it will be as well formidable and surprizing in its Appearance, as remarkable in its Consequences.

We have not yet forgot the late great Eclipse of the Sun, which was total and visible in our Hemisphere *April 22, 1715*. how (during the Time of total Darkness) the Air, from a warm clement Temperature, turn'd extremely cold: From Dry and wholesomely hot, because of an uninterrupted Sun-shine, it became damp, nay, even wet, and full of unwholesome Vapours. The Birds frighted and disorder'd fled to the Trees, and the Earth for Shelter, as if Night had been unexpectedly return'd, or some sudden accidental Danger had obliged them to seek for Refuge and Succour: Yea, the whole Course of

D 2

things,

things, during that Interval of total Darknes, seemed stagnated and confused, and Nature it self seemed to suffer.

As to what happened in humane Affairs, within but the Space of a few Months, I think it was more than sufficient to convince the greatest Gain-sayers, not only that any extraordinary Phænomena in general is significant, but that Eclipses in particular are very important, *proportionable to their Magnitude*, especially in those Parts of the World more particularly concerned, or where they are central or total.

May not we say *France* was totally eclipsed by the Death of their invincible Monarch, whose Emblem, or triumphal Signal, was, *The Sun in its meridian Glory*; and who died *August* the 21st, in the Year of this great Eclipse, to wit, 1715. with whom fell the Glory of *France*, and all the great Designs that mighty, but mortal Man had laid, to make himself the Pride of his own Dominions, and the Terror of *Europe*.

And as to the unnatural Rebellion which happen'd in *England* after this great Eclipse, it is so fresh in Memory, that we need not have recourse to History or Chronology for Information. We have not forgot how it began in *Scotland* that very Year, and with that Assurance, that they, with a Face of Arrogance, fit for none but Rebels to put on, march'd to *Lancashire*, increasing as they went, like a Snow-ball roul'd upon the Ground, presuming upon their Success to dethrone a rightful Prince, and make havock of a loyal People; but here the Hand of Heaven signally appear'd, and let these raging Rebels (not to say Heathens) be convinced, that they ima-
gined

gined vain things: Some few died by the Hand of Justice, a Sacrifice to their own imprudent Zeal and Fury, while others remain living Monuments of the Clemency of a justly exasperated Government.

And with Respect to the Weather, we may remember the excessive Frost which was in the very first Winter following that great Eclipse, the like whereof had not happened for above thirty Years before, nor has any such happened since.

Nor is the dismal Depradation made by the raging Pestilence in *France* to be forgot, which was for Duration and Severity scarce to be parallell'd; which, although it was some Years after this great Eclipse, yet if we observe that the Eclipse happen'd in the second Decanate of the fixed Sign *Taurus*, no Artist will wonder that its Operation continued so long.

C H A P. V.

Of the Great Eclipse of the Sun, which is to be on May 11, 1724.

TH E S E Things being premised, my next Work is to give a true, and methodical Account of this Eclipse, according to the Rules of Art; and this Account shall consist of a just Calculation of this Eclipse it self, with all the various Circumstances of it, as the Time
of

of the Eclipse ; the Duration ; also where it will be total, and where not, and on which Side of the Sun a Light will be seen (in Places where it will not be total) and what Planets and Stars will be seen (if the Air be clear) where it is total, &c. And then shall preceed to such Predictions as may be justly and naturally deduced, partly from the Eclipse it self, and the Configurations of the Planets immediately attending it, and partly from the other Aspects and Positions of the Planets, during the whole Year, whether before or after the Eclipse — Of which in order :

The Calculations are as follow.



Sun Eclipsed May 11, 1724.

	S.	D.	M.	S.
Equal Time of the true Con- junction _____ } 11	5	7	30	
Mean Anomaly of the Sun _____	10	22	37	30
Mean Anomaly of the Moon _____	6	29	40	23
Longitude of the Luminaries-----	II	1	38	7
North Node subtract-----	♄	25	33	19
Argument of Latitude _____		6	4	48
Moon, Lat. North ascending _____			31	44
Reduction subtract _____			1	21
Moon's Place in the Ecliptick---	II	1	36	46
Hourly Motion of ♃ from ☉ _____			35	2
Reduction add to true Conjunction			2	19
True Ecliptick Conjunction _____		5	9	49
Equation of Time add _____			8	30
Apparent Time of the true E- cliptick Conjunction _____ } 5		18	19	
Sun's true Place _____	II	1	38	12
Sun's right Ascension _____		59	31	0
Time from Noon in Degrees add		79	34	45
Sum is R. A. Midheaven _____		139	5	45
Complement to 180 Deg. _____		40	54	15
Midheaven in the Ecliptick-----	♊	16	38	0
N. Declination of the Culmi- nating Point _____ } 15		53	0	
Angle of Meridian with the E- cliptick _____ } 72		27	0	
Altitude of the Equator _____		38	28	0
Altitude of the Midheaven _____		54	21	0
Altitude of the Nonagesimal } 56		14	0	
Nonagesimal Degree _____ } 4	♊	26	0	

Dist:

	S.	D.	M.	S.
Dist. ☉ from Nonagesimal Deg.	2	2	47	48
Horizontal Parallax of ☽ from ☉			59	43
Parallax ☽ from ☉ in Longitude			44	9
Parallax ☉ ☽ from ☉ in Latitude			32	12

To one Hour after the true
Ecliptick Conjunction which
is _____ } 6 18 19

Sun's true Place _____ II	I	40	36
Sun's right Ascension _____	59	34	0
Apparent Time from Noon _____	94	34	45
Sum A. R. Midheaven _____	154	8	45
Complement to a Semicircle _____	25	51	15
Midheaven in the Ecliptick --- III	2	8	50
Declination Culminating Point --	10	44	10
Angle of Merid. with Ecliptick	68	58	0
Altitude of the Equator _____	38	28	0
Altitude of Midheaven _____	49	12	50
Altitude of the Nonages. Degree	52	25	0
Midheaven from Nonages. Degr.	17	12	0
Nonagesimal Degree _____ Ω	14	56	0
Dist. ☉ from Nonages. Degree--- 2	13	15	24
Horizontal Paral. ☽ from ☉ ---		59	41
Parallax Longit. ☽ from ☉ _____		45	17
Parallax Latitude ☽ from ☉ _____		36	24
Hourly Motion of ☽ from ☉ _____		35	2
Diff. Parallax Longit. subtract. ---		1	8
Visibly Hourly Motion ☽ from ☉		33	54
Interval between the true and visible Conjunction add _____ } I		18	10
Visible ♂ _____	6	36	29
Sun's Place _____ II	I	41	21
Sun's right Ascension _____	59	34	0

Time

Of the SUN 1724. 25

	S.	H.	M.	S.
Time from Noon in Degrees —	99	7	15	
Sum R. A. Midheaven ———	158	41	15	
Complement to 180 Degrees —	21	18	45	
Midheaven in the Ecliptick — ^m	6	57	0	
Declination Culmin. Point North	8	59	0	
Angle of the Ecliptick and Merid.	68	12	0	
Altitude of the Equator ———	38	28	0	
Altitude of the Midheaven ———	47	27	0	
Altitude Nonagesimal Degree —	51	6	0	
Distance Midheaven from No- } nagesimal Degree ———— }	18	49	0	
Nonagesimal Degree ———— Ω	18	6	0	
Dist. ☉ from Nonages. Deg. ——— 2	16	24	39	
Horizontal Parallax of ☽ from ☉		59	41	
Paral. Longit. ☽ from ☉ ———		45	9	
Distance of ☉ from ☽ ———		45	9	
Parallax Latitude ☽ from ☉ ———		37	29	
True Lat. of ☽ North ascending		36	18	
Diff. is visible Lat. of ☽ South --		1	11	
Semidiameter of ☉ ———		16	3	
Semidiameter of ☽ ———		16	34	
Sum of the Semidiameters ———		32	37	
Visible Latitude subtract ———		1	11	
Rest, Parts deficient ———		31	26	

For the Digits Eclipsed.

As the Sun's Semidiameter ———	16	3	}
To the Parts deficient ———	31	26	
So 6 Digits ———			
To the Digits Eclipsed ———	11	45	2
Scruples of Incidence ———		32	36
Time of Incidence subtract ———		56	27
Time of Repletion add ———		49	35
E			In.

		D.	H.	M.	S.
Interval between the visible Conjunction and the greatest Obscuration sub. ———— }				0	10

Hence at *London, May 11.* in the Afternoon.

The	{	Beginning will be ————	5	39	52
		Middle or greatest Darkness	6	36	19
		Visible Conjunction ————	6	36	29
		End of the Eclipse ————	7	27	0
		Total Duration ————	1	47	8
		^a Digits Eclipsed ————	11	45	0

Visible Lat. Δ at the { Beginning 1 12 } South Asc.
 { End ———— 1 14 }

^a For the better determining the Quantity of an Eclipse, the Sun's Body is supposed to be divided into twelve Parts, called Digits; and in this Eclipse, there will be eleven Digits 45 Minutes dark, *viz.* out of the 12 Parts there will be eleven and three Quarters dark.



C H A P. VI.

Of the Quantity and Extent of this Eclipse; also where it will be total, and where not; with an Account of what Stars and Planets may be seen where it is total.

THIS Eclipse will not be total at *London*; but by Reason the Moon, at the Middle of the Eclipse, will have 1 Minute 13 Seconds visible South Latitude, there will a Thread of Light appear on the North Side of the Sun, but it will be so very small, that it will not amount to above one Forty eighth Part of his Body.

In the North and East Parts of *England*, and throughout *Scotland*, the Eclipse will not appear so great; But in *South-Wales*, as also in the South and South West Parts of *England*, as at *Glocester, Bristol, Exeter, Salisbury, Winchester, Chichester, Devises, Bath, Wells, Dorchester, Southampton, Gnilford, and Reading*. Also in *Ireland*, at *Waterford, Wexford, Limerick, &c.* As also in *France*, at *Roan, Paris, Havre de Grace, Bologne, &c.* In all these Places the Eclipse will be total. The North Part of the Shadow of the Moon will pass over *Ireland*, to the Northward of *Galloway*, thence onwards near *Dublin*, and so over *Wales*, between *Montgomery and Radnor*; and in *England*, it passes near *Worcester, Oxford, London, Maidstone, and Dongeness*; and in *France*, near *Boloign, &c.* But all Places to the Northward of them will

have the North Side of the Sun's Body enlightned. And in the North of *England*, as at *Newcastle*, *Carlisle*, *Durham*, *Stockton*, and *Hull*, they will have a considerable Quantity of Light on the North, or rather the North East Side of the Sun, when the Eclipse is at the greatest.

Again, the South Limb of the Moon's Shadow will pass by or near *Cork* in *Ireland*; also by *Plymouth*, and by *Cape la Hogue* in *France*, and all Places South or South West, from a Line drawn through them, as at *Cape Clear* in *Ireland*; also at *Falmouth*. The *Lizard*, and the Islands of *Garnsey* and *Jersey* will have the South Side of the Body of the Sun enlightned; but at *Wexford* and *Waterford* in *Ireland*, likewise at *Pembroke* in *Wales*, *Milford Haven*, *Bridgewater*, *Somerton*, *Shaftsbury*, *Portsmouth*, the Isle of *Wight*, as also at *Diepe* in *France*. it will be total with Continuance. The Center of the Moon's Shadow passes over or near these Places, and the Darkeness will be so great, that some of the Planets and fixed Stars may be seen, to the great Admiration and Surprize of the Beholders; more especially *Mars*, *Venus*, and *Mercury* may be seen all to the Eastward of the Sun. *Mercury* will be nearest to the Sun, about as far from him as an Hour and a half Motion, *Venus* about as far to the Eastward of *Mercury*, and *Mars* again about as far to the Eastward of *Venus*. The bright Star, called *Aldebaran*, may also be seen very near the Sun, but to the Eastward also; and the great Dog Star may be seen very near setting in the South West, and many other Stars will appear where the Eclipse is total with Continuance, if the Air be clear.

CHAPTER VII.

How to erect a Figure to the Time of the Eclipse.

NOW in order to represent the Face of Heaven at the Time of this Eclipse, viz. May 11, 1724. at 6 H. 36 m. 19 s. P. M.

	D.	M.	S.
We find by Calculation, that the			
Right Ascension of the Sun is _____	59	34	0
Time from Noon in Degrees _____	99	7	15
Sum Right Ascension of Midheaven --	158	41	15
To which add _____	30	0	0
Oblique Ascension of the 11 House --	188	41	15
To which add _____	30	0	0
Oblique Ascension of the 12 House —	218	41	15
To which add _____	30	0	0
Oblique Ascension of the Ascendant ---	248	41	15
To which add _____	30	0	0
Oblique Ascension of the 2 House —	278	41	15
To which add _____	30	0	0
Oblique Ascension of the 3 House —	308	41	15
Altitude of the Pole for the 11 and 3 Houses _____	32	11	2
Altitude of the Pole for the 12 and 2 Houses _____	47	28	0

Having found the Oblique Ascension of the six oriental Houses, and the Altitude of the Pole for them all as above (the Altitude of the Pole for the Ascendant being always the Latitude of the

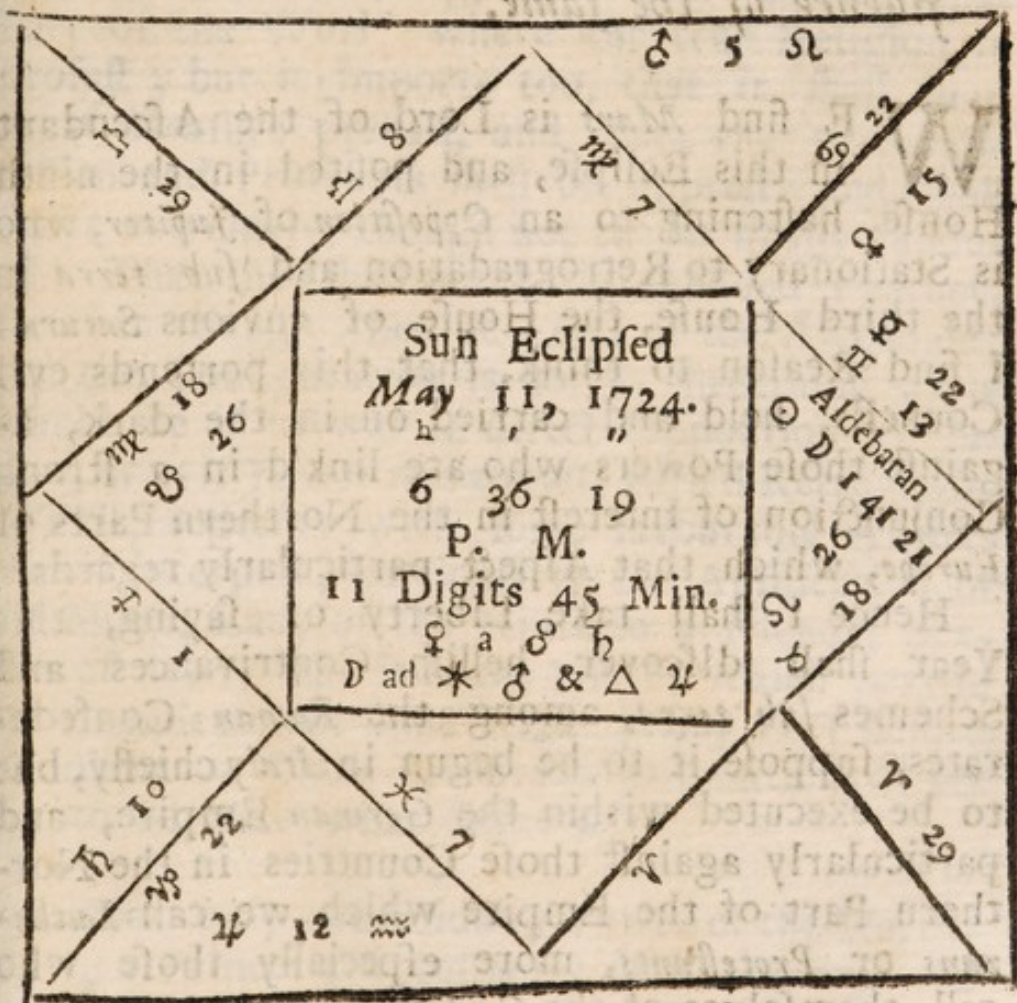
the Place, which here is 51 Deg. 32 Min.) seek the oblique Ascension of the 11 House 188 Deg. 41 Min. 15 Sec. in the Table of oblique Ascensions belonging to the 11 House, *viz.* for Lat. 32 Deg. 11 Min. and you will find against it \approx 8 for the Cusp of the 11 House. Find the oblique Ascension of the 12 House 218 41 15 in a Table of oblique Ascensions belonging to the 12 House, *viz.* for Lat. 47 28 and you will find against it \approx 29 for the Cusp of the 12 House.

Proceed so with the proper oblique Ascensions, and in their respective Altitudes of the Pole, and having so found the Cusp of the six oriental Houses, place the opposite Sign and Degree upon the opposite House, and every Planet in its respective Sign, and the Scheme will appear as followeth.





The Face of Heaven at the Time of the Eclipse.



C H A P. VIII.

Of particular Predictions, form'd from the particular Aspects of the Heavenly Bodies immediately concerned in this Eclipse, and calculated for the Kingdoms or Countries more especially under the Influence of the same.

WE find *Mars* is Lord of the Ascendant in this Eclipse, and posited in the ninth House, hastening to an Opposition of *Jupiter*, who is Stationary to Retrogradation and *sub terra* in the third House, the House of envious *Saturn*: I find Reason to think, that this portends evil Councils, held and carried on in the dark, against those Powers who are link'd in a strong Conjunction of Interest in the Northern Parts of *Europe*, which that Aspect particularly regards.

Hence I shall take Liberty of saying, this Year shall discover hellish Contrivances and Schemes *sub terra*, among the *Roman* Confederates, suppose it to be begun in *Italy* chiefly, but to be executed within the *German* Empire, and particularly against those Countries in the Northern Part of the Empire which we call *Lutherans* or *Protestants*, more especially those who call themselves of the *Confession of Ausburg*.

Let the *Saxons* and *Silesians* in particular look about them, their Sovereigns being Popish, it shall be the harder to secure them against the Invasions

sions of the *Roman* Interest, which is apparently bent, with its utmost Skill, to supplant and destroy them.

In short, the Popish Powers will push an Attack at the whole Interest, and shall make some bold Stroaks, and Blood will be shed, but the Confederacy of Religion shall appear very formidable; so that the *Italian* Schemes will not take Place.

As *Jupiter* is Patron of Religion, it intimates, that not only a temporal Power, join'd with Ecclesiastical Cunning, shall arm against that Part of the World where the true Religion is profess'd; but it imports too, that it shall in a great Measure prevail, and that the true Profession and Professors shall be oppress'd, and shall suffer extremely, though not to be finally subdued. That they shall not be so subdued I gather, for that though *Mars* be Lord of the Ascendant, yet the Configuration is not so threatening as it would be if he was in direct Opposition to *Jupiter*, or as if *Jupiter* was already turn'd Retrograde.

This, together with some favourable Aspects which interpose, particularly the Application of the Moon, Lady of the Ninth, to a friendly Sextile of *Mars*, who is in the Ninth, which Sextile she compleats the same Night [May 11.] before Midnight — These favourable Dispositions direct me to advance what follows.

1. Not only a formidable Power of the Northern Princes (Protestants) shall interrupt the hellish dark Schemes of the Roman Pontiff; but the Pope, notwithstanding all his Endeavours, shall not be able to prevail with several of the most powerful, even of the

Popish Nations themselves, to break with their Neighbour Princes who are Protestants, or to form a religious War.

2. *France* openly declines the Crusade, which the Pope sollicit. The Powers of *France* are not so promising this Year, as to make them venture what they have yet *Will* enough to do if they were able — — Belike they yet feel the Wounds of the late War, and do not think themselves sufficiently recovered to embark again.

Besides *France*, 'tis likely, may be otherwise employ'd, for the malignant Aspects of this great Eclipse are not such, or so remote from *France*, that they should be wholly unconcern'd at them; at best, *France* may find many other Reasons, why they should not enter upon any new War, especially not of Religion; I say, many other Reasons besides those above mentioned might be given. Of which I shall enquire in its Order.

3. The House of *Austria* seems inclined, by the Assistance of the approaching friendly Trine of *Jupiter*, whose EAGLE he bears, to keep well with this Side of the World. It seems the Emperor has his Eyes chiefly towards *Poland*, and the Aspects that way are rather threatning than not, yet the Eclipse does not point directly the Devastations of War to *Poland*, except as it may come into some Broil on the South, under the Aspect of *Jupiter*, in the third House, in opposition of *Mars*, the Effects of which must come from a Quarrel between the *Turks* and the *Muscovites*.

It is an Aphorism or Maxim in Astrology, that an Eclipse of the Sun in the first Decanate of Gemini imports Variety of Confusions among the Ecclesiasticks, embroils them with one another, and frequently embroils Kingdoms by their Means; for how often do Ecclesiasticks set Nations together by the Ears, and bring Kings and Princes into Wars and Bloodshed on their Account; nay, how often do they make temporal Princes draw their Swords, and massacre the innocent People on both Sides in the Quarrel of the Church, when the Church-men themselves, after having kindled the Flame, retire from the Heat of it, and leave the rest to fight it out for them; as Pope *Eugenius*, by the Assistance of a heretical Fryer, his Legate, mov'd *Lewis* the King of *Hungary* to break his Faith and League with the *Turks*, by which he was ruined, being slain at the Battle of *Varna*, and thirty thousand Christians with him.

*Leave martial Deeds to martial Men,
And let the Priests go pray,
Such Devilish Council, worse receiv'd,
Works Europe's great Decay.*

Besides the malevolent Influence which this Eclipse may have on the Affairs of War and Peace, as *Religious*; for I see no Configuration tending to Political Breaches in that Part, *I say only, that I do not see it.* But besides this, it is to be observed, that this Eclipse happens in the first Decanate of the humane, airy and bicorporeal Sign *Gemini*, about 13 Degrees of which possesseth the Cusp of the eighth House, which, amongst all Men of Art, is esteem'd the House

of Death and Mortality; and this Eclipse being in the Sign that possesseth the Cusp of the Eighth, may be said to be *virtually* in the Eighth, while *Mercury*, Lord of the Eclipse, is *actually* in the Eighth in his own House.

This Position of the Planets at such a Time is very dissatisfying, and the Aspects melancholy; for, according to the *Rules of Astrology*, this directly points out desolating *Plagues* and *Mortality* in the Northern Parts of *Europe*, where the Influences of these Planets in these Signs and Houses govern; nay, according to the afore-said *Rules of Astrology*, 'tis a certain Prefage, or indeed a Chain of Prefages or forebodings, all agreeing to point out a raging, epidemical Sickness or Distemper, and great Mortality amongst the Nations. Every true *Briton*, and Lover of his Country, will join in praying, that Heaven may avert that terrible Calamity from this Nation and Kingdom, and preserve the City of *London* in particular. But we must not hide it, if we endeavour to give a perfect View of things as Nature directs, that the Eclipse happening in *Gemini*, and that the City of *London* in particular is said to be under the Influence of that Sign, we see more than ordinary Reason to redouble our Wishes and Prayers for the Preservation of the City of *London* from the threatening and depopulating Judgment of a Plague.

I would not take upon me to alarm the City of *London*, or the Inhabitants of *Great Britain*, with speaking too positively in an Affair of this Consequence; but as no Time is unseasonable to warn the World of Danger, so if I were a *Jonah*, I would warn *Nimveh* to repent. I say no more,

more, let the Citizens of *London* take the Hint as they shall think proper.

Nor does the Planetary Influence leave *France* without some Indications of their Share in the Calamity, let it begin where it will; nay, it may begin there again, for ought we know, and may communicate Contagion from thence to their neighbouring Nations, as it had been communicated from other Nations to them.

It must not be forgot here, though I do not say the Eclipse immediately intimates it, that it may have other fatal Influences upon *France*; but we shall not assert that it *must*; nor shall we say it *will*: Let *France* avoid joining with those that have no Religion in them, under the Pretence of a Religious War, and then

That this Eclipse has nothing in it fatal to *France*, and even to some of the great Branches of the House of *Bourbon*, I will not pretend to say, because I think otherwise, tho' I go no further. But if that great and powerful Family do not see it self within the Reach of Planetary Influence, they must think themselves something more than humane, which, to be plain, I do not think of them; but just the contrary. In a Word, I expect something on that Side which may be better spoken afterwards than now. Let it suffice to us, that the Royal House of *Great Britain* stands entirely clear from any malevolent Aspect, or threatening Influence on this Occasion, nor does there appear the least Aspect of personal Evil towards them, or the remotest Branch of them, at home or abroad; and it is as much the Duty of an impartial Artist to assert the Good, as to suggest the Evil. 'Tis true, it is not impossible to be mistaken in either,
but

but it is enough, that no evil Prefage offers it self on this Occasion, either to King *George*, or any of his Royal Race, at home or abroad.

It appeareth that the *Turk* and *Muscovite* will be affected by the Influence of this Eclipse, and the Configurations that attend it, and will at least have some Bickerings in the Infancy of its Influence, perhaps not a compleat Rupture; because 'tis thought some Part of the Influence regards the Person of the *Grand Seignior*, or at least of his prime Minister the *Grand Vizier*, who, 'tis very likely, may, one or both of them, fall a Sacrifice to the Tumult and Violence of the Soldiery, as is not unusual in those Countries; for the Eclipse being actually in the seventh House, plainly intimates Bloodshed, Murder and Rapine, but chiefly by Rabble and Tumult in the Nations it regards, and amongst their own People, rather than by open Wars with any other Nation. It also denotes those Violences and Vexations happening among the Chief of those Nations before mentioned.

Again, *Mercury*, who is Lord of the Eclipse, hastening to an Opposition of Retrograde, envious *Saturn*, which he accomplisheth *May* the 27th, and repeats it *June* 16, and again *July* the 7th, and returns, being the Patron of all ill-humour'd, ill-temper'd, malicious Actions amongst Men; it evidently denotes Factions and Male content amongst the Nations upon whom it has an Influence.

Some will have it affect Marine Affairs in *Europe*, and that the *Turks* shall fall upon the *Maltese* by Sea with a powerful Navy; also great Success to Pyrates, &c. but be that how it will,

I think

I think its Influence affects things of a much higher Nature.

The Influence may reach further ; but it may suffice to rest here. As for the Affairs of *China*, they are too remote to speak of under this Head, and I shall have Occasion to mention them again, some great Revolution seeming to be at hand there also.

CHAP. IX.

Of particular Predictions, form'd from the particular Aspects of the Heavenly Bodies and respecting those Countries which are under the Influence of those Bodies, whether immediately concern'd in the Eclipse or not.

I Find the Planets *Mars* and *Mercury* particularly concerned in the Eclipse, and as several Countries are under the Influence of those Planets, and the Signs they possess, or are Lords of, they merit our Enquiry ; for that those Places may be affected by the Influence of the said Planets.

Mercury, who is Lord of the Eclipse, and strong in the Eighth, his own House, in the airy Sign *Gemini*, is of evil Import, and denotes, besides what is said of Infection, &c. terrible Storms and Tempest of Wind, with all the usual fatal Consequences of that Element being universally di-

disturbed; whence, towards the vernal Equinox, we may expect the Effects of these Calamities both by Sea and Land, especially in those Countries where this Planet is more particularly said to govern, as in *Flanders*, the Coast of *Picardy* and *Normandy*: *England* indeed is not immediately concern'd in the predicted Effects of this Planet's Influence, but it will be much, if when the Coast of *Flanders*, *Picardy*, and *Normandy*, shall be torn with Storms and Tempests, *England*, which is but just on the opposite Shore, should entirely escape; so that 'tis to be fear'd we may feel part at least of the Influence, especially on the Coast of *Kent* and *Suffex*.

In the more remote Parts, the Gulf of *Car-dia* or *Crete*, with the *Greek* Islands of the *Archipelago*, the Continent of the *Morea*, and the Coast of *Barbary* on the Side of *Egypt* and *Alexan-dria*, they will feel the Effects of this Aspect in a more violent Manner, particularly in Tempest of Fire, that is to say, Lightning and Thunder; and let the Coast of *Asian Greek*, from *Ephesus* to *Smyrna*, expect some Shocks of an Earthquake, tho' perhaps favourable in comparison of what has been.

In like manner the Sun it self taking its abstract from the Conjunction which occasions the Eclipse; I say, the Sun governing the Kingdoms of *Naples* and *Sicily* with all the southern Half of *Italy*, may, by the additional Influence of the Planet *Mercury*, as Lord of the Eclipse, have a malevolent Aspect towards those Countries and Kingdoms.

These Configurations may also denote excessive Heats and stagnated Air, and consequently contagious and raging Distempers in those Countries;

tries. But I must confess I apprehend more Infection from the fiery Dispositions of those terrible People, called the *Congregation*, in that Country, who sit in their dark Divan at St. Peter's, to inflame Mankind, and set the World on Fire, than from all the Operations of Nature *naturizing* in the upper Region, or *Nature natured* in the lower Regions, by their Influence.

Nor is the Sun, at this Time, without especial Influence in the Eastern Part of the World, the Countries of *Armenia*, *Georgia*, and all that Part now in Possession of the *Turks* or *Persians*, or both, which was the antient *Chaldea*, are in a particular Manner under the Government of this Planet and of *Mars*.

It is more than probable Blood and Devastations will be the Portion of this Part of the World this very Year 1724, and the Year following, and that if any Part of the Globe be over-run with Wars and Desolation, it will be this Part rather than any. The Planet, which has the governing Influence in those Parts, suffering so great a darkning of his Glory, and being interrupted from shining on a great Part of the World for so considerable a Space of Time.

I need not enquire by whom this Part of the World shall be thus disturbed, the Face of things already show us that, as also the small Number of Nations which are bordering on these Parts, seeing there are but four Nations who can be concern'd in a *Chaldean* War; namely, the *Turks*, the *Persians*, the *Muscovites*, and the *Mogul Indians*; these, or some of these, are all that may, or possibly can be concern'd in

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this War, which will amount to great Devastations and Bloodshed. But as Geography determines the Contiguity or Remoteness of Places, so Astrology discovers why, how much, and in what Manner, they are under Planetary Influence, and let the Nations experience, and future History record the Truth of my Calculations.

Sweden and *Denmark* seem to be subject to some of the Evil Incidents of this Year; but their Share in it seems but small at present, and perhaps may issue only in the Mortality of some of their Princes, or that it may be a Storm approaching, but as yet at a greater Distance than within the Compass of the Year now under Observation. May all Calamities and desolating Evils be averted from Nations professing the Protestant, and truly reform'd Doctrine, that they may always be in a Condition to unite and turn their Strength against the Enemies of the Reformation, and of sound Principles in the World.



C H A P. X.

General Predictions for the whole Year 1724, formed from just Observations of the Aspects of the whole Heavens during the said Year, including the Eclipse, and all the Phenomena of the Heavenly Bodies, as well respecting Europe, as all the rest of the terraqueous Globe.

UPON the whole, and taking in the general Aspect of the Planetary, and even of the starry Heaven, as it respects all the habitable Earth, ANNUS MIRABILIS seems to be written at the Head of the whole Scheme, as a capital Title to the Calculations of the whole Year.

There are but few Parts of the Year which seem very propitious, and those few Smiles of the Face of Nature seem to be directed to remote Parts; but we have the Felicity to see, without being in the least partial to our own Country, that *Great Britain* is not threatned with any thing very fatal. God grant we do but escape infectious Distempers, general Contagions, and the like; and we hope, by the good Conduct of our Government, and the happy Situation of our Country, surrounded with difficult Seas, and fortified and defended with our wooden Walls and floating Castles, to prevent

whatever Mischief may be prepared for us from without.

Nor can I by the Aspect of Heaven foresee so much plotting or private Treason in this or that Kingdom or Country against it self, that is, against the respective Governours or Government of those Countries, as I do the general Conspiracy of the Ecclesiastical Power, in behalf of the *Romish* Hierarchy against the reformed Nations, endeavouring to embroil the Powers of *Europe*, called Catholick, against the opposite Power, called Reformed, in a Crusade or Religious War.

This indeed, as I have already observed Chap. VIII. seems to be the Effect of a malevolent Influence, which proceeds from the Eclipse, and appears as it does, namely, *Mars* being Lord of the Ascendant in the Ninth, and opposing *Jupiter*, the Patron of Religion, who is *sub terra* in the third.

It is to be hoped that the Protestant Powers, who are not ignorant of the Devices of those *Demons*, will fortifie themselves in such a Manner, and unite their Powers as their Interest are inseparably united, and that in so indissoluble a Bond as that all the Combination in *Europe* shall not be able to separate them; and if they cannot be separated, there is no Fear that they can be overcome; for to have the reform'd Countries inseparable, is to have them invincible.

But this speak I, not the Stars: If the Rules of Astrology tell us, that such Attempts will be against them; the Rules of common Sense dictate Union and united Affection to be the concomitant of common Safety.

As *Venus*, a peaceable, soft, sociable Planet, governs at *Vienna*, and in the Eastern Provinces of the Empire, I give it as a sure Hint that the Pope will not be able to bring the imperial Arms effectually into the Church Quarrel, though some Attempts may be made that way, and with Appearance of Success; for *Venus* is in the Eighth out of all essential and accidental Dignities, therefore properly peregrine. If *Germany* is threatned, let them use that Caution in their Engagements, especially against or to the discountenancing of the true Reform'd Religion, that may be most proper to avoid the evil Consequences of such Threatnings.

The Emperor, a more great and powerful Potentate than any of the Princes of the House of *Austria*, have been since *Charles* the Vth, and considering how well his Imperial Majesty stands with the rest of *Europe*, and how few Enemies he has in the World, he may be said to be much greater; but which is more than all, his great and faithful Counsellor and General *Prince Eugene of Savoy*, is no Bigot, he knows the Political Interest of his Master too well to sacrifice it to a sham Pretence of Religious Interest; and he understands the Force of the Protestant Powers, and the Goodness of their Troops too well, to suffer his Master (if he can prevent it) to be deprived of the Alliance of those Powers, and of the Assistance of such gallant Troops, upon Occasion, much less to be obliged, for a Caprice of the Pope, to embroil himself with them.

However, as the restless Party at *Home* will blow up the Coals, *Europe* may at least see the Smoak, if they do not feel the Flame. And

so much the Aspects of the Planets plainly intimate, let Time discover the Event.

There is another significant Configuration, whose Effects we have sensibly experienced, and yet continue under, though we have not yet touched upon it.

There was at the Close of the Year 1722, a great Conjunction, and well it might be said to be a great Conjunction; for it was of all the three Superiors, Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars, in the fiery Sign *Sagittarius*, the Influence of which has not yet done operating. The Effects of it have already appear'd very evidently in the extrem hot and dry Summer that immediately succeed-ed it (and it will not be wondered at, if the Winter be as extremely cold, with large Quantity of Snow or severe Frost) we are very sensible of the late, or rather present raging of the Small-Pox, which has swept away Multitudes both in *England* and *France*.

And this Eclipse falling upon the Back of that eminent Phenomena, it may reasonably be expected, that their united Force will produce more sensible Effects; nor will those Effects be empty and trifling Speculations, but in all Appearance strange, and even astonishing in those Parts of the World where they shall operate.

The Aspects towards the East and South East are very threatening. I make no Difficulty to say a bloody War is intimated between the *Turks* and the *Persians*, and the *Muscovites* are not only concern'd herein, but directly intimated; nay, more directly than the *Persians*; and that this War will one way or other involve several of the Powers of *Europe*, that is to say, as auxiliary to the *Muscovites* — As to the *Persian*, the Do-
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minion of that great and wealthy Monarchy seems to be the Bait of this War; and as the Aspects seem to go off towards the End of the Year, I suggest, that at the Close of that War the *Persian* Monarchy will be dissolved, and the whole Country shared and divided as a Prey to the two contending Parties, that is to say, between the *Turks* and *Muscovites*.

There are also some particular evil Aspects that seem to point to the more remote Nations, and that either the *great Mogul* will quit the Stage of Life, or some very powerful Monarch on that Side of the World, and a great Revolution is threatned in *China*, but of what kind I am not to make any guess sufficient to entitle the Rules of Art to it; but seeing I confine myself, as to that Part of the World, I shall say no more of it now.

We observe *Venus*, chiefly Lady of the sixth, in the eighth Peregrine, which signifies a sickly Time in general, tho' what has been said above as to a Contagion should not come to pass; and this seems more particularly to affect *Holland*, *Flanders*, *Denmark*, and *Norway*, together with the Northern Parts of lower *Saxony* (to wit) *Holstein*, *Sleswick*, and the Countries on the lower *Elbe*, and on the South and South-West Shoar of the *Baltick*.

'Tis true, that as the Seasons of the Year, the Weather, and the like Changes attending those Seasons, are subject to various Incidents, besides the Influence and Attraction of the Planets, and which are not to be brought into just Calculations, or fully adjusted by the Rules of Art; so the Artist ought not to be censured for Deficiency in his said Calculations, though the Weather

ther doth not in every Circumstance fall out as he may reasonably suggest.

The prevailing long experienced Influence of the great Dog-Star, when rising with the Sun, may intimate dry Weather, and violent Heats at that Time, called the Dog-Days, and the Season of the Year may make it unnatural to expect any thing else, and yet the extraordinary Quantity of humid Vapours, unexpectedly rais'd or exhaled by the Sun in the Season before, may have so loaded the Air with Vapours, that an unusual Fall of Water may happen at the Time above mentioned, by which Fall of Water, the Air is so cool'd and moderated, that no such violent Heat happens as was expected.

In like manner Art may reasonably predict a hard Winter, and long continued violent Frost, from the like Influence of *Arcturus* setting with the Sun, the Season also then concurring; and yet then a Prevalency of uninterrupted Westerly Winds (which blowing soft and moist Vapours from the great Atlantick Ocean, always keep the Season open, and make it warm and mild) may quite deprive us of those expected wholesome Frosts, and the Winter may be open and warm, and yet the Artist not be at all to blame, or his Calculations and Conclusions condemn'd, merely for his failing in some Measure under such a Concurrence of contrary Causes.

How often, even in this last Summer, have Clouds appeared seeming to promise Rain, and yet been dissipated without so much as one Drop being perceived to fall upon this Part of the Surface of the Earth over which they appear'd; and yet at another Time, when the Season is inclined to Moisture, Clouds less promising
have

have produced plentiful Showers; and in Times of excessive Rains, when the Disposition of the Air seems wholly inclined to Moisture, even small Clouds produce great Showers; and yet none will recede from that common received and approved Opinion, that great Showers of Rain are generally usher'd in by the Appearance of black Clouds, but continue to predict Rain from such Appearances (the Situation of the Wind concurring) and that commonly with an indisputable, tho' not equal Success.

From hence I conclude, that none place so absolute a Dependance upon meteorological Conclusions and Predictions, as if we, that make them, could, like the Prophet *Elijah*, say, *There shall be neither Seed time nor Harvest for so many Years*; or, as when the said Prophet bid the King hasten to his Palace, *for there was a Sound of abundance of Rain*. Our Business is to give such Schemes as the Situation of things make rational, consulting the Concurrence of natural, but not asserting the Knowledge of supernatural Causes. And this Method, I doubt not, will be granted to be followed in these our Calculations, and the Deductions made from thence. Nor should any Man, in Contempt of our modest Suggestion, despise what we have delivered, only because we have not advanced above the Rules of Art, Reason, and Modesty therein; let such rather suspend their Censure till they see whether what is herein hinted comes to pass or not, and then act as they see Cause, whatever Consequences may attend their Contempt of Art.

When *Julius Caesar* was modestly advertised by a Man of Art (and who had Kindness enough for him to give him such a Caution) that *he should have a Care of the Ides of March*; he, like the bolder People of this Age, who slight all Notice of future things as ridiculous, flouted at this friendly Calculator, scoffingly told him that Morning, says he, *The Ides of March are come*. But his friendly Monitor confirmed, by his Rashness in the Certainty of his Calculations, boldly replied, *But they are not gone*; intimating, that though they were come, and nothing had yet happened to him of what he had predicted, and bid him expect or warn against, yet there was Time left for Fate to determine who was in the right, and for him to be yet convinced, that he had not given him a needless Caution; as *Caesar* found in a few Hours after, he being stabb'd that Day in the Senate House.

Let no Man conclude therefore, that if every thing he expects do not come to pass, in the same Manner he expects it, that therefore it was not rational for him to expect it. That I have prov'd Planetary Influence, I assure my self, none can deny that have read the former Part of this small Treatise; and I as well assure my self, that those, who do believe Planetary Influence, cannot reasonably expect or believe, that such a Succession of extraordinary Phænomena, as happens now within the Space of less than a Year and a half, can be supposed to pass without something extraordinary to attend as the Consequence of them. We may enumerate some Particulars.

1. The Sun was near half eclipsed *November* 27, 1722. and although that is not so surprizing as those that are total and central, yet it is the greatest Eclipse of the Sun that hath been visible in *England* since the total Eclipse in the Year 1715.

2. The great and remarkable Conjunction of the three Superiors, *Saturn*, *Jupiter*, and *Mars*, near the Close of the Year 1722, the like of which has not, nor will ever be seen by any Man living.

3. A surprizing Comet, not expected by the greatest Artist, nor heard of till it was seen, yet attended with some extraordinary Circumstances, though ignorant People begin to speak contemptibly of it, because they have not yet been affrighted with the horrible Appearance of a flaming Tail or Beard hanging just over their House, and therefore looking no further into the Nature and Consequences of a Comet.

4. The Transit of the Planet *Mercury* over the Body of the Sun, *October* 29. this Year 1723. which may properly be said to be an Eclipse so far as *Mercury* is able to eclipse the Sun.

5. The great Eclipse *May* 11, as above in the Calculation, usher'd in not only with the four Phænomena before mentioned, but also with an Opposition of the two malevolent Superiors, *Saturn* and *Mars*, not two Months before the Eclipse. I think we may safely say, that such a Congress of extraordinary Appearances have not happen'd in so little Time, perhaps since the World began. Let no Man think that such a Confluence of Appearances, circumstanced as they are circumstanced, shall not be

attended with Influence sufficient to justify our Predictions of something extraordinary to follow.

If any will continue to deny it, they must not only have a contemptible Opinion of Astronomical Knowledge, and of the Disposition of the Heavenly Bodies in such Cases as these, but they must act against the Experience of all Ages, the Records of History, and rational Probability; and to such I shall only say, let them indulge themselves in their Opinion, till they have their Eyes opened by the Effects predicted coming to pass.

For my Part, I am fully satisfied, that as there are so many such signal Appearances in so short a Space of Time, and that under the Influence of such predominant Signs, as has already been observed, Heaven has not placed them in such a kind of Conjunction for nothing, nor only to be gazed upon or talk'd of.

I cannot easily forbear observing, that the Sign *Sagittarius*, and its opposite Sign *Gemini*, are more particularly concern'd; for the solar Eclipse *November 27, 1722.* was in *Sagittarius*, the great Conjunction of the three Superiors, *Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars*, was in *Sagittarius*; also the great Eclipse in *May* next, the Subject of our present Discourse, is in *Gemini*, the Sign opposite to *Sagittarius*. All which seem to intimate, that the Places under these two Signs will have a more particular Share in the Influence.

Places

Places under *Sagittarius*, according to the most celebrated Authors, are *Spain, Hungary, Slavonia, Moravia, Dalmatia, Buda, Toledo, Narben, Cullin, Stangard*.

Places under *Gemini* are, *Lombardy, Brabant, Flanders*, the West and South West of *England*.
Cities, *London, Lovain, Bruges, Noremberg, Mentz, Bamberg*

As to the present Comet, although it has not yet appeared in such a glaring and affrightful Manner as some have done before it, yet that is so far from rendring it contemptible, that it is the more remarkable. That Comets are surprizing Appearances, all do own; and yet that their Revolutions are so regular, as to be capable of being reduced to Calculation, some of the best Artists do believe; but this Comet was not that we hear of, expected to be seen by any Artist, till it actually appeared, which made its Appearance the more surprizing; and which yet made the Appearance more extraordinary was, when Peoples Curiosity or Surprize was heightned with the Expectation of its nearer Approach, or more perfect Appearance, it seem'd to withdraw. I shall not now take upon me to determine what may be either the Reason or the Consequence of this unusual Appearance; but as it is qualified with Circumstances of an extraordinary Nature, as to the Time, Place, and Manner of its appearing, and as to its Situation, it may furnish us with Matter for future Observation.

In the mean Time, if we consider the Time of its Appearance, and that it is even contemporary with the Transit of *Mercury* over the Body of the Sun, the least we can gather from it is, that it is a concurrent Testimony, and more immediate Fore-runner of what we have observed upon the great Eclipse of the Sun; and let it not be wondred at, if it is succeeded by a very hard Winter, with strong Frost and larger Quantity of Snow than hath been of late Years, or else with excessive Winds and Rains.

‘ Probabilissimum est, omnes Co-
 ‘ metas esse irati Numinis linguas,
 ‘ & malorum secutororum, ut ira
 ‘ DEI avertatur, nuntios. Est u-
 ‘ nanimis Philosophorum, Astrologo-
 ‘ rum, Historicorum sensus, & recep-
 ‘ tissima jam inde ab omni ævo mor-
 ‘ talium fere omnium opinio, exem-
 ‘ plis innumeris confirmata. Ridendi
 ‘ ergo qui contendunt, Cometas non
 ‘ magis infelicitatem quam felicitatem
 ‘ portendere, eo quid aliqui Cometæ
 ‘ fausti fuerint aliquibus Principibus,
 ‘ quas enumerant: quasi vero illi ip-
 ‘ si non magis regnis ac populis la-
 ‘ etuosi,

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‘ Etuosi, quam Principibus illis fausti
‘ illuxerint.

‘ Hinc deducas quid de nostro Cometa, de
‘ quo disceptata est, statuendum.

P. CASPARI SCHOTTI.

F I N I S.



Wm. S. H. 1777
• Quod, quia Principibus suis
• mandavit.
• Tunc, utrumque ad hunc
• et ad hunc, et ad hunc
L. CAESARI SCHOETD

1777

