

MARS HAS BEEN OBSERVED IN HIS USUAL POSITION. The Great Orb Hung Directly Over the Earth.

A PERHELION AND AN APHELION. The Opposition Lasted for the Fraction of a Second.

And Went Come Again for Fifteen Years. What Professor Holden Saw at Mount Hamilton.

Vulgarly: Mars was dead on us at 10 o'clock last night. Popularly: The earth's opposition to Mars occurred last evening at precisely 10 o'clock. Scientifically: At the instant of time between the last tick of the seventh hour and the first tick of the eighth hour, Greenwich meridian astronomical time, the planet Mars was nearly in his perihelion, passed directly over the planet Earth, which was nearly in her aphelion. Thus Sun, Earth and Mars came into direct opposition at



THE LICK OBSERVATORY, SHOWING THE FOG BANKS BELOW THE SUMMIT.

at this time a period when the two planets were nearest each other, an event that will not occur again for about 15 years. Take your choice. The facts are that during the last two and the next two weeks Mars and Earth have been in the most favorable position for observation in direct opposition.

In other words, though the mathematical opposition of Mars, Earth and Sun occurred at a certain instant last night, the practical opposition began about two weeks ago and will last for another fortnight.

According to the best local authority an observation of Mars made a week ago had as much scientific value as the one made last night.

At 8 o'clock was the night and the eyes of an enlightened Earth was turned expectantly upon the great Lick telescope at Mount Hamilton.

Even the astronomers themselves caught the popular enthusiasm and they looked through the telescope with the most interest and eagerness.

Everybody who possessed a telescope looked through it. The fact is that the local astronomers there are, perhaps, half as numerous as those who are known to have been present last night.

Professor George Davidson of the Coast Geodetic Survey had not the time to spare, being too busy drawing imaginary straight lines through the clouds.

William M. Pierson, ex-president of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, found time to look through the telescope.

Charles Burckhalter of the Chabot Observatory might have been expected to be at his post for the occasion.

Miss Rosa O'Halloran had her telescope packed for moving. So she could not look through it.

Professor Davidson to THE CALIF. when asked whether his glass would be leveled at Mars during the eventful instant.

"No, I am too busy in my latitude work to spare the time necessary to study Mars. There is a complete impossibility of leveling the telescope at the moment."

"No, I decline to speculate on the probability of ever having a telescope big enough to see Mars as a planet, and I've looked through Lick's big glass many a time."

"I don't believe there is satisfactory evidence to support the Schiaparelli canal system on Mars. It is a matter of opinion, and no one else saw them, and there are other astronomers with just as good eyes as Schiaparelli's, and they have not seen them."

"Yes, I know; they talk about Schiaparelli having better advantages for observation than I have, but I have better eyes, but that's all wrong."

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long. A square of one of them would be too large to be visible on the surface of the moon, and she is 100 times nearer than Mars.

"Here's another point that people get awfully mixed up and misled about. When an astronomer says he has seen something as big as the Palace Hotel, he means he means that he distinguishes the thing as being a Palace Hotel, or even that it looks to him as big as the Palace Hotel looks to you or I."

"What he does mean is this, that he has seen an infinitesimal spot no larger in size than the Palace Hotel would appear were it to be placed at the same number of millions of miles distant."

"Now Schiaparelli called his shadow bands canals only because they seemed to connect together. That is, they were found only between what appear to be the large bodies of water on Mars. It is quite strange, too, that in each case he found the shadow marks parallel. But his choice of names was unfortunate, and the consequence is that many persons have been misled into deeming them artificial highways of communication."

"There is nothing particularly critical about tonight, though the mathematical opposition occurs then. Practically the opposition lasts a whole month."

"We are now farthest away from the sun and Mars is nearest that orb. You could draw a straight line through the diameters of the three. Practically, that line would be straight for a month yet, but theoretically only at the very instant of the opposition."

"But what mars this opposition [Mr. Burckhalter persisted this quite unaccountably] is that Mars is so low in the horizon. Thus the astronomer has the maximum amount of atmosphere to pierce in making observations. We have the planet quite over us, as it is over the southern hemisphere, the telescope would be pointed perpendicular to the surface of the planet, and the smallest possible thickness of atmosphere."

"It is as if some one had undertaken to make a new map of the State of California, for example. He would begin by measuring the base lines and by setting out the meridians and parallels. He would then divide the country into squares, and he would have his notebook filled with figures and after a long time he would be able to issue a new and accurate map of the region—more accurate, in fact, than any that has ever been issued."

This is precisely the immediate object of the observations of Mars which are now being made. The astronomer is not, as is so often said, trying to determine whether the planet is unusually near to us. They are rather unfavorable observations. We have the planet quite over us, as it is over the southern hemisphere, the telescope would be pointed perpendicular to the surface of the planet, and the smallest possible thickness of atmosphere."

"The immediate object of our work is to make the map in question, and we already have enough material to be sure that we can considerably improve existing maps, although some of them are very fine, especially that made by Professor Schiaparelli."

"Of course, the ultimate object of all observations is to determine the physical peculiarities of the object to be observed. In the case of Mars we know nearly it resembles the earth, and whether it is fit to be inhabited by beings like ourselves is a question that has been proposed by certain very enthusiastic astronomers to determine the further question."

"What is most important about this opposition is that the astronomers have this opportunity to measure the two satellites of Mars by the micrometer."

"Heretofore the satellites have appeared too small to permit their measurement. This is the first opportunity ever presented for the measurement of their diameters. We estimate the light they send us by the light sent by Mars. Its diameter, you know, is about 4,000 miles. The diameter of the satellite is 1,000th part of that given by Mars. Then, if their reflecting powers are the same, they must be 100,000 times more than the satellite."

"In astronomical time the event occurs 18 hours Greenwich meridian time, on the 4th of August. The astronomical day, you know, begins at noon instead of midnight. Now, the hours past noon, the 5th of August would bring the opposition, according to Greenwich time, at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 4th of August."

"But in California we are eight hours west of Greenwich, so that brings the event here at 10 o'clock last night."

"As a matter of theoretical fact, Mars will not be in exact opposition to Mount Hamilton until about midnight. The diameter of the meridian of Mars two hours east of us, or somewhat in Nevada."

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be a bad opposition. The planet is too low in the horizon, and the telescope will have to pierce through the refracting vapor near the earth's surface.

"Professor Holden has told us that the Lick telescope brings Mars within 50,000 miles of us. Now, if the full 3000-diameter power of the big glass could be used in an area of just one square inch, the case of Mars could be brought within 12,000 miles."

"Then indeed we might see something of Mars. But the telescope is not powerful enough to determine whether Mars is inhabitable. That is beyond science and belongs to fancy and imagination."

"No; the moonlight on earth's surface will not interfere with the observations of Mars. The moon is in the same part of the sky within 60 degrees of the opposition point."

"I consider the most successful achievement of the present opposition the measurement of Mars' satellites."

"In two years from now there will be an opposition of Mars. It is not possible to say whether it will be as good as the present one, but it is possible that it will be better."

"If Mars could be seen at midday instead of at night, it would be a great advantage. But it is not possible to say whether it will be as good as the present one, but it is possible that it will be better."

"The fact is that Mars is directly over us. But star-gazing, like burglary, is best conducted under the shadow of night."

FROM MOUNT HAMILTON. Professor Holden Tells of the Work Being Done by the Big Telescope.

LICK OBSERVATORY, Aug. 3.—The Lick Observatory has replied to many inquiries received during the present opposition of Mars, both by telegraph and by letter.

These inquiries indicate a widespread interest, but in very many cases, at least, they appear to be based on a misapprehension of the kind of work that is being done on the planet here and elsewhere.

The case is not as if astronomers were pushing out on an unknown ocean, excepting that the ocean is the atmosphere of a planet, and the ship is the telescope.

In such a case the mere announcement of the discovery would be all that was needed and expected.

The actual circumstances are very different. It is as if some one had undertaken to make a new map of the State of California, for example. He would begin by measuring the base lines and by setting out the meridians and parallels.

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banks of the Lagos Hills and the surprising apparition of a duplicate lake near the shore.

"We might incidentally mention the fact that there are now two lakes there. One is a small one, and the other is a large one. We are speaking, it must be remembered, of bodies of water hundreds of square miles in area. Just as there is a lake near Lagos, we are speaking, it must be remembered, of bodies of water hundreds of square miles in area. Just as there is a lake near Lagos, we are speaking, it must be remembered, of bodies of water hundreds of square miles in area."

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ARRESTS AT HOMESTEAD. Warrants Issued for the Carnegie Officials.

TROOPS PREVENT AN OUTBREAK. Ball Refused for One of the Anarchists—The Verdict Rendered by the Coroner's Jury.

Special to THE MORNING CALL. PITTSBURGH, Aug. 3.—Hugh Ross, one of the leaders of the workmen, this morning swore out a warrant for the arrest of H. C. Frick, chairman; T. P. Lovjoy, secretary; J. G. A. Leishman and H. M. Curry, officials of the Carnegie Company; J. A. Potter and G. A. Covey, superintendents at the mill; Robert A. and William Pinkerton and a half a dozen of their men who took part in the fight at Homestead, charging them with murder. It is probable that information will be made later against them for conspiracy to depress the wages of the workmen and incite a riot by bringing armed men into Homestead. The suits were delayed on account of the shooting of Frick, and it is not the intention to arrest him at present.

The attorneys for the strikers had a long consultation after the informations had been made with the result that it was decided to serve warrants only on Lovjoy and Potter, who are regarded as the ringleaders. Lovjoy is understood to have fled, and Potter is understood to have fled to the court to fight.

Secretary Lovjoy, Vice-President Leishman and Treasurer Curry of the Carnegie Company appeared before Judge Ewing in the Criminal Court this afternoon to answer for themselves. They were released on \$10,000 each. Messrs. Frick, Nevitt, McClelland, Leishman and Curry were held by their attorneys. Hearing on their application for bail was postponed until tomorrow.

The train on which the constables and prisoners were to be taken to Pittsburgh was held up by a mob of strikers at the depot. The strikers were armed with clubs and stones, and they threatened to kill the constables and the prisoners. The train was held up for several hours, and the strikers were finally dispersed by the police.

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