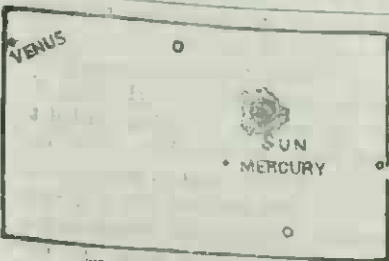


tial eclipses, no matter how near totality, so long as there was a mere thread of the glowing disc of the ruler of day apparent, can form no conception of what a complete obscuration is. So long as there is any portion of the sun, however slight, protruding beyond the moon, there will be sufficient light even from that slender source to completely destroy all the gorgeous effects observable when he is completely hidden. The earth is not so dark by many shades, there are no stars visible, and the crowning feature of the celestial exhibition—the magnificent corona—does not appear. The feeling of solemnity, not to say reverence, inspired by even an eleven-twelfth's obscuration is an insignificant sensation compared with that which takes possession of the mind and heart when surrounded by the dense leaden shades produced by the occultation of our source of light and heat.

At the same instant that the last glimmer of the sun disappeared, the planet Mercury "bobbed up serenely" in the heavens and only about thirty minutes, or half a degree, southeast of the sun. So far as was known, our representative had never before met the little world face to face, for it is generally, as at present, so near the great luminary around which it revolves that it cannot be seen as evening star and arises too early as



THE GENERAL VIEW.

morning star to be observed by those who are not unusually early risers. But here it was, almost as luminous as Venus, three degrees farther off, and shining with that steady and lustrous glow which has been a source of admiration from days long before any known literature of astronomy was constructed. Three of the larger of the fixed stars in the vicinity could be discerned but only by close scrutiny, and the magnificence of the whole spectacle was apt to detract greatly from an analytical observation.

It was very cold, and one's fingers were like flakes of ice, though for a short time fingers were not needed

the only sense employed was the eyesight; but after the first stroke of admiration had passed, sketching roughly and with rapidity was begun, of course only producing crude outlines perfected in accordance with the observer's memory afterward, the result of which is very well produced by the engraver in figures 3 and 4. The reader should consider the right hand side of the cuts as west, the latter being the point from which the moon began her invasion of the sun's dominions.

The period of totality held finely on, fully a minute being occupied by the splendid vision; then, in an instant, a gleam of sparkling light appeared at the northwest side of the darkened orb; it glowed like a precious gem set in a jewel, and grew as rapidly as the sun's light had disappeared, and at 4:14 o'clock the god of day shone forth as grandly as though his face had never been hidden. The event was over, the occasion past, and there was nothing more to be done but to wait patiently for the first south-bound train.

In Salt Lake City, obscuration began at eighteen minutes before two o'clock, standard time. As the shadow increased, the thermometer began to fall in a noticeable degree, but after the point of greatest obscuration was passed, at 3:05 p.m., the cold moderated slightly. At 4:17 p.m. the moon had entirely passed from the sun's disc. During the whole two and a half hours there was not a cloud to obstruct the view. For about half an hour the light of the sun was perceptibly dimmed, and at its deepest shadow was almost as mellow as the light of the full moon, though of course considerably stronger.

Nearly everybody seemed to be out having a glimpse of the beautiful scene. Some attempted to look at it with the naked eye, but to these it was very unsatisfactory, as even one-twelfth of the sun's face is too much to gaze steadily upon. The great majority used smoked glass, and almost every available piece within reach was gathered. One gentleman, in the western part of the town, couldn't find a piece of glass about his premises with which to operate and secure a view of the obscuration, and his neighbors had all the pieces they could find in service. His house faced south, so with burning paper he smoked the transom light, which served the purpose excellently. A lady in the southern portion of

the city had no other means of beholding the sight, so she took a pane of glass out of the kitchen window. The glass was broken in smoking it, but she saw the eclipse.

RELIGIOUS PROCEEDINGS.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, December 30th, 1888, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir and congregation sang:

Mortals, awake; with angels join,
And chant the solemn lay.

Prayer by Elder H. P. Richards.

The choir sang:

At first, the babe of Bethlehem,
Of meek and humble mien.

The Priesthood of the Thirteenth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

PRESIDENT JOHN MORGAN

was called to address the congregation. He said he was thankful for the privilege of meeting with the Saints under such peaceful and favorable circumstances. The privileges afforded in this capacity are seasons of feasting, wherein the Saints are strengthened in the performance of their duties. This is the last Sabbath in the year 1888, and by next Sabbath the records of the year now closing will be swallowed up in the eternity of the past. But the year before us is as a blank sheet, to be written upon by the deeds of the next twelve months. This is a momentous time, and the Saints should reflect upon the position they occupy. No people today are in such a peculiar position as we are, not only as to geographical situation, but in a religious, social, and political sense.

No people on the earth are so completely misapprehended as are the Latter-day Saints. When we contrast the ideas of the world with the knowledge of those acquainted with the genius of the work we are engaged in, there is a vast difference. Looked upon as deluded, ignorant and fanatical, we are ostracised by all the nations of the earth and all ranks of society. The human family has become so imbued with sentiments adverse to the Saints that it would seem that generations of time must elapse before a proper understanding of the principles embraced by the Saints will be arrived at.

But those who have witnessed the growth of the Church must acknowledge that there is something wonderful in it to give it such vitality. Some twelve or thirteen years ago, when traveling in the State of Illi-