

THE GREAT RENT IN THE SUN Its Reappearance Probable

By the CN Astronomer

The enormous rent in the Sun which was lately observed and even visible to the naked eye, has since disappeared round the upper right-hand side of his disc.

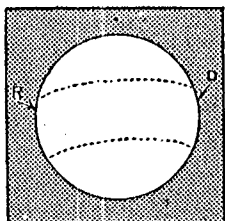
It may, however, reappear and be again visible after passing round the other side of the Sun; if so it should now be coming into view round the left side of the Sun's face. The observer should be properly equipped with a darkly-tinted glass, when this rent may be seen as a dark spot.

The path which these terrific solar cyclones, popularly known as sun spots, take across the Sun's disc at this time of year is shown on the drawing.

The Storm Zone

The belt between the dotted lines shows the storm zone; anywhere between these lines, which extend to about 30 degrees north and south of the Sun's equator, these vast storms may break out, though they are far less likely near the equator itself and not frequent near the upper or lower limit. As on the Earth it is in what might be called the tropical regions of the Sun, some way north and south of the equator, where they usually attain their greatest dimensions. This last solar outburst extended over an area of some 3500 million square miles of the Sun's surface, that is, nearly 70 times greater than the entire surface of the Earth. It occurred in these north "tropical" latitudes of the Sun, and it travelled bodily as terrestrial tornadoes travel through the Sun's atmosphere of fire.

Now, while terrestrial storms travel bodily at anything from 15 to 30 miles an hour, with the cool air whirling round and upwards at from 70 to 150 miles an hour within the cyclonic area, those on the Sun consist of cyclonic storms of fire travelling bodily with speeds often reaching to 2250 miles an hour. The vast and whirling currents form a maze of whirlpools, some with an upward and some with a downward motion, but the whole generally whirling spirally upwards at speeds increasing from a thousand miles an hour to a hundred times faster in the upper and more tenuous regions of the solar atmosphere.



The Solar Storms Belt as seen from the Earth in February. The great Sun Spot disappeared at D and may reappear at R.

In addition to these, which are known as *proper* motions, there is the motion due to the general rotation of the Sun which, on an average, takes nearly 26 days in the storm zone, and increases to a much longer period in the higher and more quiescent latitudes. Therefore the colossal outburst which vanished two weeks ago round the western edge should now be well in evidence coming round the eastern side of the Sun, that is, assuming it has not expended its energy and that the depression has not filled up, as a meteorologist would say of a vanishing storm centre on the Earth.

The Aurora Borealis

About one in six will last long enough thus to reappear round the left edge of the Sun, but as this was so vast and intense a disturbance it is likely to persist; indeed, they have sometimes been known to last for months through three or four revolutions of the Sun.

Therefore we may again experience much radio and magnetic disturbance; even the Aurora Borealis may be seen again as in the last week of January.

G. F. M.

COATS

Cloaks were worn before overcoats, and many stories of them have come down to us.

Red Riding Hood wore a red cloak, and we never think of Sir Walter Raleigh without picturing him as the gallant courtier who, it was said, took off his richly-embroidered cloak and laid it at the feet of Queen Elizabeth so that she might step dry-shod over a puddle.

In France there are few names more honoured than that of St Martin, who is shown in art in the act of dividing his cloak to give half of it to a beggar.

Fashions in coats are always changing. The Norman cloak clasped under the chin with a gold brooch gave place to the more elaborate cloak of Richard the Second's day, its long sleeves often lined with ermine. Short coats with broad collars were in fashion at Henry the Eighth's Court, and after growing still shorter in Elizabethan times they were extended to knee-length in the 19th century.

Goldsmith's Gay Attire

Outside St Clement Danes we may see a quaint statue of Dr Johnson in his untidy and ill-fitting coat. He is looking down Fleet Street; and he may remind us, by way of contrast, of Oliver Goldsmith (who lies close by) and his love of fine clothes, especially coats which made people stand and stare.

Who does not know the story of the tailor who cut his coat to suit everyone? Some said it should be short and some that it should reach to the knees. He was told to make the sleeves wide, though others advised him to make them almost skin-tight. Some said it should have a high collar, others that there should be no collar at all; and as the foolish fellow took everyone's advice and tried to please all, he made a coat which pleased no one.

Wind and Sun

Older still is the story of the wind and the sun, and how they had a quarrel as to which was the stronger of the two. "Whichever of us can strip that man's coat off his back (said the wind noisily) shall receive the homage of the other." The sun agreed. So the wind blew as hard as he could, determined to tear off the man's coat; but the harder he blew the more the man buttoned up his coat and hugged it about him.

Then the sun tried. He beamed gently at first, and the man turned down his collar. He beamed a little more and the man unfastened his coat. He went on beaming, and at last the man said, "I cannot bear this any longer," and off came his coat.

Boys on the Mountain

We read of many coats in the Bible. There was Joseph's coat of many colours; there was the embroidered coat made for Aaron, and there were the little coats which Samuel's mother made so lovingly and took up to the temple every year, every coat bigger than the one she had made before. In the book of Daniel we read that when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the burning fiery furnace their coats were unchanged.

Some of us will never forget the story of little Desmond Pritchard whose heroism was told in the CN. He was eleven, and his little friend Ivor Morgan a year younger. The two boys were lost on the mountains above their home at Treherbert, and when Desmond saw his friend shivering with cold he took off his own coat and wrapped it round the younger boy.

JUBILEE OF THE POLY TOURS

Work of a Lord Mayor
and a Lord Chancellor

TRAVEL IS MARCHING ON

There are few homes into which some kind of leaflet or booklet dealing with holiday travel does not find its way today, giving to many a thrill which no lesson in geography has ever provided.

Even the railway leaflet announcing an evening trip to the seaside to see illuminations affords an opportunity for a few hours' pleasure, and eager hours of anticipation such as our grandparents never knew.

At the other end of the scale are those elaborate books filled with pictures and often written by famous authors which are broadcast early in the spring by the principal travel agencies.

One of these richly-stored books has a special interest this year, for it marks the Jubilee of the conducted tour for young people. It was in 1888 that 60 schoolboys accompanied by a master and a doctor started from the Polytechnic in Regent Street to tour in Belgium and Switzerland and to visit the battlefields of the Franco-Prussian War.

A Remarkable Institution

The idea originated in the fertile brain of Mr Quintin Hogg, who was spending his time and fortune in building up one of the most remarkable institutions in London. His secretary was a young man named Kynaston Studd, and so successful was the tour that others followed.

The most famous of these early tours was to the Chicago Exhibition of 1893, when the 1250 Polytechnic visitors were conducted by one man (Sir Kynaston Studd) who was to become Lord Mayor of London, and another who was to become Lord Chancellor of England, Mr Douglas Hogg, now Lord Hailsham.

The enthusiastic secretary succeeded the enthusiastic founder as president when Quintin Hogg passed on in 1903, and he is looking forward to a double celebration in the famous "Poly Holiday Camp" on Lake Lucerne this summer, the 50th year of the Touring Association and his own 80th birthday.

Since he left HMS Hood in 1924 Commander Ronald Studd, DSO (his son), has been directing this valuable organisation, and he declares foreign travel is making amazing strides. Last year his association alone took twice as many travellers as in any previous year.

We hope he will not be disappointed, for, while we think it foolish (and most certainly wrong) to regard foreign lands as more attractive than our own, every young man and woman should see something of other lands and other peoples.

25 YEARS AGO

From the CN of February 1913

A Prime Minister's Memory. When King Edward was crowned, among the many distinguished men who came to London to see the crowning was Mr Deakin, at that time Prime Minister of Australia. The King was crowned amid scenes of unparalleled splendour, and the "captains and the kings" departed, taking with them glittering memories of the gorgeous ceremony.

An English Minister, visiting Australia, has been asking Mr Deakin what most impressed him during his visit to England, and here is Mr Deakin's answer:

"One night I had been to a great reception. It was midnight. I was making my way home, and I turned aside into a dark and narrow alley. There, on a doorstep, I saw a little lad, aged about twelve, with his arm round a little girl of three. The lad had taken off his coat and wrapped it round the child, and with his cap he had covered her feet. Of all that I saw during my visit to London that picture will ever be strongest in my memory."

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