

moon is opaque (or not transparent), it completely stops all the light from every part of the bright disc of the sun, so long as the *total* eclipse continues, which is sometimes as much as two or three minutes ; and then are witnessed, what at no other time can be seen, viz., certain wonderful appearances of rose-coloured masses of light projecting, as it were, from the dark edge of the moon, for the most part like knobs, or cones, or long ranged ridges of what would seem to be mountains, rising from it ; but sometimes like clouds or flaring flag-shaped masses of red light, some of which have been seen quite detached from all connexion with the moon's border. That they belong to the sun, however, and not the moon, is evident from the fact that the moon in its progress over the sun's face gradually *hides* those *to* which it is approaching, and discloses those which belong to that side of the sun which the moon is going to leave ; for I should mention that they are seen irregularly placed all round the edge of the sun.

(43.) Now, what *are* these singular lights? Flames they certainly are not ; clouds of some sort it is extremely probable that they are, of most excessively thin and filmy vapour, floating in a transparent atmosphere which must for that purpose extend to a very considerable height above the luminous surface of the sun. We are all familiar with the beautiful appearance of those thin vapoury clouds which appear in our own atmosphere at sunset. But these solar clouds must be almost infinitely thinner and more unsubstantial, since even in that intense illumination they are only seen when the sun