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itself is hidden ; and when it is remembered that the head of the comet of 1843 was seen at noon-day within two or three degrees of the sun by the naked eye.

(44.) Then, again, as to the magnitude of these cloudy masses, it must be enormous. Some of them have projected or stood out from the edge of the sun to a distance calculated at no less than forty or fifty thousand miles. They have now been observed in three great eclipses, that of 1842, 1851, and 1859 ; on which last occasion they were photographed in Spain by Mr De la Rue, under such circumstances as left no possibility of doubting their belonging to the sun. I dwell upon this, because there is another luminous appearance seen about the moon in total eclipses of the sun, which can only be referred to vapours of excessive tenuity, existing at an immense height in our own atmosphere ; and which surrounds the disc of the moon like a glory, or *corona*, as it is called. By the accounts of all who have witnessed a total eclipse of the sun, it is one of the most awful natural phænomena. An earthquake has “rolled unheededly away” during a battle, but an eclipse has on more than one occasion either stopped the combat or so paralyzed one of the parties with terror, as to give the others who were prepared for it an easy victory : and I may as well add that two very remarkable battles in ancient history, the one on the 28th May, B.C. 585, the other the 19th May, B.C. 557, which were in progress during total eclipses, have had the years and days of their occurrence thereby fixed by calculation with a certainty which belongs to no other epochs in ancient chronology.