

COURTEOUS READER,

I HAVE heard that nothing gives an Author so great Pleasure, as to find his Works respectfully quoted by other learned Authors. This Pleasure I have seldom enjoyed; for tho' I have been, if I may say it without Vanity, an eminent Author of Almanacks annually now a full Quarter of a Century, my Brother Authors in the same Way, for what Reason I know not, have ever been very sparing in their Applauses; and no other Author has taken the least Notice of me, so that did not my Writings produce me some solid Pudding, the great Deficiency of Praise would have quite discouraged me.

I concluded at length, that the People were the best Judges of my Merit; for they buy my Works; and besides, in my Rambles, where I am not personally known, I have frequently heard one or other of my Adages repeated, with, as Poor Richard says, at the End on't; this gave me some Satisfaction, as it showed not only that my Instructions were regarded, but discovered likewise some Respect for my Authority; and I own, that to encourage the Practice of remembering, and repeating those wise Sentences, I have sometimes quoted myself with great Gravity.

Judge then how much I must have been gratified by an Incident I am going to relate to you. I stopt my Horse lately where a great Number of People were collected at a Vendue of Merchant Goods. The Hour of Sale not being come, they were conversing on the Badness of the Times, and one of the Company call'd to a plain clear old Man, with white Locks, Pray, Father Abraham, what think you of the Times? Won't these heavy Taxes quite ruin the Country? How shall we be ever able to pay them? What would you advise us to?-----Father Abraham stood up, and reply'd, If you'd have my Advice, I'll give it you in short, for a Word to the Wise is enough, and many Words won't fill a Bushel, as Poor Richard says. They join'd in desiring him to speak his Mind, and gathering round him, he proceeded as follows;

" Friends, says he, and Neighbours, the Taxes are indeed very heavy, and if those laid on by the Government were the only Ones we had to pay, we might more easily discharge them; but we have many others, and much more grievous to some of us. We are taxed twice as much by our Illness, three times as much by our Pride, and four times as much by our Folly, and from these Taxes the Commissioners cannot ease or deliver us by allowing an Abatement. However let us hearken to good Advice, and something may be done for us; God helps them that help themselves, as Poor Richard says, in his Almanack of 1733.

It would be thought a hard Government that should tax its People one tenth Part of their Time, to be employed in its Ser-

[See the Months for the Remainder of the Preface.]

ECLIPSES, 1758.

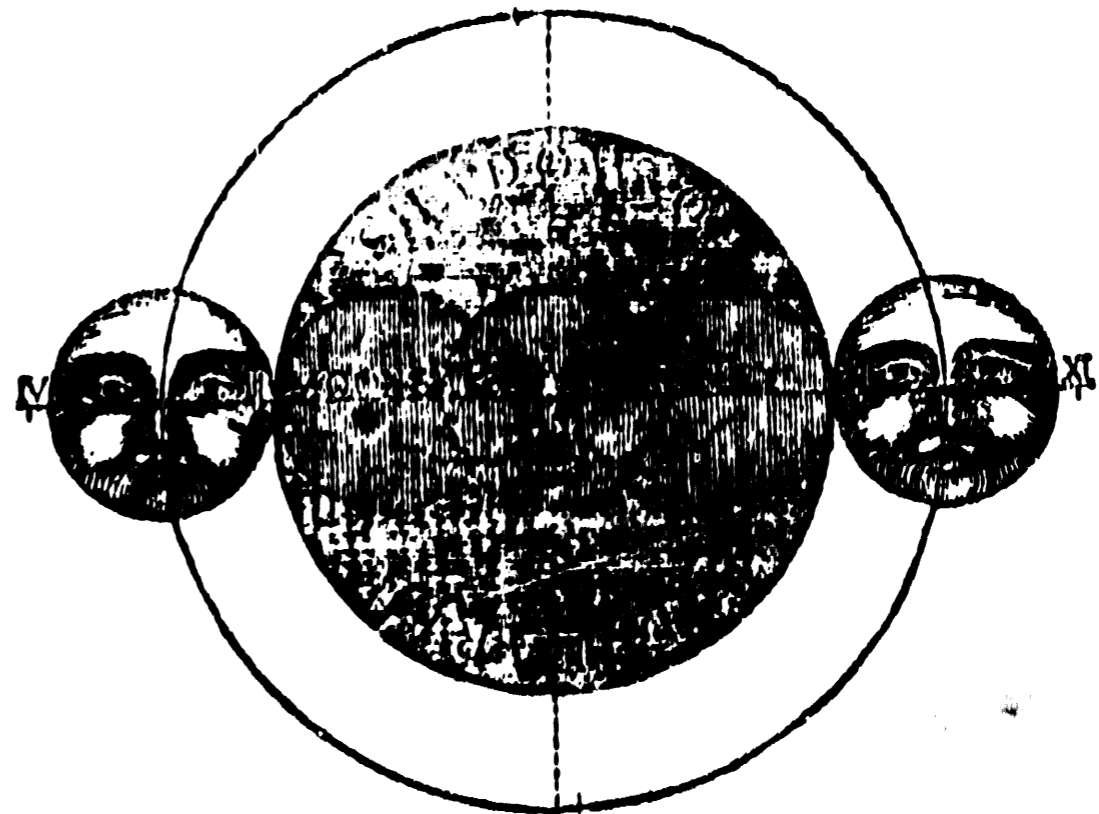
SIX Eclipses this Year, four of the Sun, and two of the Moon.

The First is of the Sun, on *January* the 9th, invisible. The Second is a very great and total Eclipse of the Moon, on *Tuesday*, the 24th of *January*, in the Morning.

	D.	H.	M.	
Beginning,	12	11	33	P. M.
Beginning of total Darkness,	13	12	39	A. M.
Middle of the Eclipse,		1	29	
End of total Darkness,		2	19	
End of the Eclipse,		3	25	

App. Time.

The T Y P E.
N.



This Eclipse will be visible in the Western Parts of Europe and Africa; in *Mar Del Nort*, and the *Atlantic Ocean*; in all *America*, and all over the *Great South Sea*, even as far as *Japan* and *New Holland*.

The Third is a very small Eclipse of the Sun, on *Tuesday*, the 7th of *February*, at Twelve a Clock P. M. invisible here.

The Fourth is an Eclipse of the Sun, on *Wednesday*, the 5th of *July*, about Four a Clock in the Morning, invisible here, and all over the Northern Hemisphere.

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