



Smithsonian Institution

Archives Center - NMAH

Charles Francis Hall Diary Volume 2, 1860

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 12:56:22

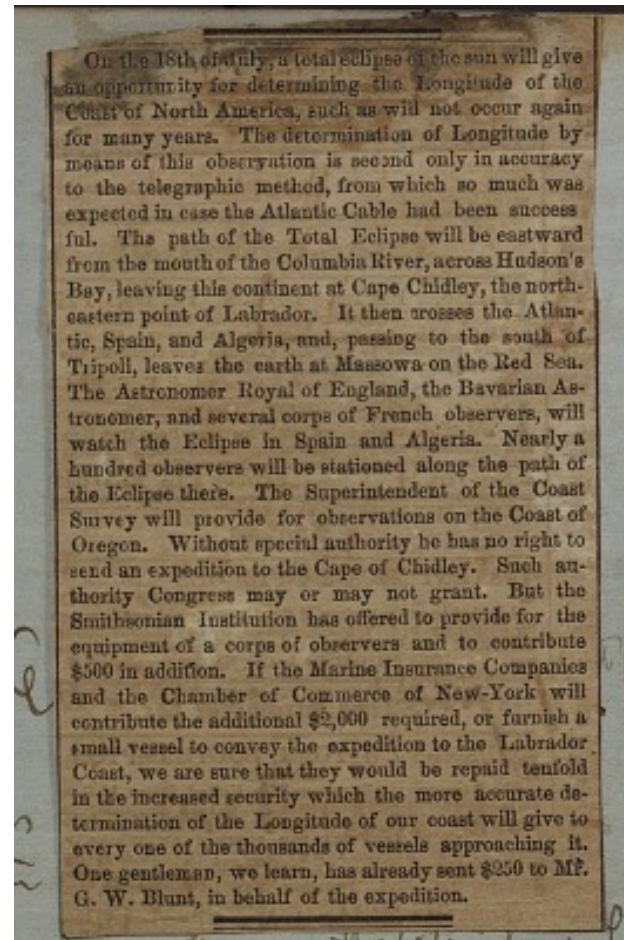
The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Archives Center - NMAH as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Archives Center - NMAH website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Archives Center - NMAH or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Archives Center - NMAH. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

On the 18th of July, a total eclipse of the sun will give an opportunity for determining the Longitude of the Coast of North America, such as will not occur again for many years. The determination of Longitude by means of this observation is second only in accuracy to the telegraphic methods, from which so much was expected in case the Atlantic Cable had been successful. The path of the Total Eclipse will be eastward from the mouth of the Columbia River, across Hudson's Bay, leaving this continent at Cape Chidley, the northeastern point of Labrador. It then crosses the Atlantic, Spain, and Algeria, and passing to the south of Tripoli, leaves the earth at Massowa on the Red Sea. The Astronomer Royal of England, the Bavarian Astronomer, and several corps of French observers, will watch the Eclipse in Spain and Algeria. Nearly a hundred observers will be stationed along the path of the Eclipse there. The Superintendent of the Coast Survey will provide for observations on the Coast of Oregon. Without special authority he has no right to send an expedition to the Cape of Chidley. Such authority Congress may or may not grant. But the Smithsonian Institution has offered to provide for the equipment of a corps of observers and to contribute \$500 in addition. If the Marine Insurance Companies and the Chamber of Commerce of New-York will contribute the additional \$2,000 required, or furnish a small vessel to convey the expedition to the Labrador Coast, we are sure that they would be repaid tenfold in the increased security which the more accurate determination of the Longitude of our coast will give to every one of the thousands of vessels approaching it. One gentleman, we learn, has already sent \$250 to Mr. G.W. Blunt, in behalf of the expedition.



Charles Francis Hall Diary Volume 2, 1860
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Apr-19-2024 12:56:22



Smithsonian Institution

Archives Center - NMAH

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)