## [404]

A Letter from Mr. Flamsteed concerning the Ecclipses of Saturns Satellit's for the year following. 1684 with a Catalogue of them, and informations concerning its use.

SIR,

He uses of the following Catalogue of all the E-clipses of Jupiters Satellits in the following year extending much further then that of a sew only visible with us, which you were pleased to think worthy a place in the September Transactions; I find my self necessitated to give you a larger account both of it, and its Original; which I hope will be as kindly entertaind by you as that was.

It has been my custome for some years past to make my self quarterly a small Ephemeris of the Eclipses of Jupiters Satellits visible with us, that so none of them might escape me unobserved when the weather permitted; having by this means obtained a good stock of observations of them of my own, besides what I had collected from the Works of Galileo, Hodierna, Borelli, the papers of Mr. Rooke late professer of Geometry at Gresbam Colledge, (happily preserved and kindly imparted to me by his once intimate freind, and one of my honoured Patrons, the Right Reverend Seth Lord Bishop of Sarum,) and the communications of my honourd freinds and corespondents Monsieur Cassini, and Mr. Towneley. I found my self well furnished, as I thought, for the restitution of their motions, which as I have formerly told you I atempted last Summer, and accomplished with such fuccess; that having seen only 2 of the prædicted Eclipses of the first Satellit, I find neither of them differ above 2 Minutes from my calculations. I have also observed one of the third, not above 3 Minutes faulty, and another of the second erring but two; which makes me hope the

inequality I suspected in this last, will not be found so large as I feared it might be: after I had finished the Tables of their Mean Motions, I set my self to Calculate others for finding the true times of their return to the Heliocentrical Conjunction of # in all places of his Orbite, with some other which I foresaw would be requisite for the easie Calculation of their Eclipses: having this in readiness, and being encouraged with the aforesaid good fuccess, of my endeavours, I resolved to Calculate all the Ecliples of the following year 1684. and to impart them to the publik, if you consented, in the Tracts; they being much defired both at home and abroad, that so not only our freinds here, who have a respect for Novelties of this fort, but such forreigners also as are Studious of Astronomy and Geography, or those of our own people who Travail into remote Countries, and shall be accomodated with instruments for this purpose, may have the apportunity of foreknowing such appearances, as, observed, will certainly shew the difference of Meridians betwixt them and us. And I must confess it is some part of my design, to make our more knowing Seamen ashamed of that refuge of Ignorance, their Idle and Impudent affertion that the longitude is not to be found, by offering them an expedient that will assuredly afford it, if their Ignorance, Sloth, Covetousness, or Ill-nature, forbid them not to make use of what is proposed.

Those of them that pretend to a greater talent of Skill then others, will acknowledge that it might be attained by Observations of the Moon if we had Tables that would answer her Motions exactly; but after 2000 years experience (for we have some Observations of Eclipses much ancienter) we find the best Tables extant erring sometimes 12 Minutes or more in her apparent place, which would cause a fault of a half an hour, or 7½ degrees in the longitude deduced by comparing her place in the heavens with that given by the Tables: I undervalue not this Method, for I have made it my business, and have succeeded in it, to get a large stock of good Lunar Observations.

s a ground work for better Tables; but the examination will be a work of a long time, and if we should happily afterwards attain what we seek, yet the Calculation will be so perplexed and tedious, that it will be found much more inconvenient and difficult then that I propose by observing the Ecloses of Jupiters Satellits

which however at prefent I must prefer.

For I am persuaded, that the Eclipses of the first will scarcely be sound above 4 Minutes of time different from my Calculation in the Catalogue, nor those of the third above twice as much; Now an errour of 4 Minutes cannot cause a fault of more then one degree in the Longitude collected by comparing an observed Ingress of the first Satellit into 2s shadow or emersion from it, with the time given in the Catalogue; and I hope it will scarce ever be sound to err so much. But if the same Eclipse may be observed in two distant places at the same time, or compared with an observation of the same satellit made within a Week elsewhere, the difference of Meridians will be had something better then by comparing two observations of the same phasis of a Lunar Eclipse, made in distant places.

For whereas it is somewhat difficult by reason of the *Penumbra* to determine the true time of the application of either of the *Moons* limbs to the shadow, the *Satellits Eclipses*, especially those of the first, are almost momen-

tanỳ.

And whereas there can rarely happen 4 Eclipses of the Moon visible the same year, thoseof the Satellits happen so frequently, that there are more of them visible in one year then we count days in it, tho the Planet Z lie hid under the Suns raies every year a whole moneth together.

I know our Navigators will object against this Method, that it is difficult to practice at Sea, because long Telescopes are required which the Motion of the Ship will not permit them to manage aboard, that it is hard to

di-

stinguish one Satellit from another, and that Tables or other contrivances for shewing their Mutual positions are here wanting; to which I answer.

That if it be not practicable at Sea they cannot deny but it is at land; That the true longitude of remote Coasts from us are the first thing defired for the correction of their Charts; let them attempt these first, and I doubt not but the success will encourage them so much, that they will readily find means to put it in practice at Sea. That the French have used this method successfully both in Denmark and their own Country; That a Telescope of 14 toot long at most, or for need one 8 soot, with broad eye glasses, will be sufficient for this purpose; that the dificulty canot be known till it be tried, and that use renders many things easie which our first thoughts conceaved unpracticable.

That the Satellits may be distinguished by their Magnitudes, the third from # being the biggest, the first something less, the second yet less than the first, and the fourth or outermost the smallest. And to their last obiection, that if I find this method heeded by them, I shall take care to publish easie Tables for finding their Configurations and Ecliples in good time. I delay it at present on no other account, then that by further Observations I may get a better knowledge of their Motions, for tho these Satellits were discovered 74 years agone, yet have we no Observations of their Eclipses, that we may rely on, before Hodierna's, and the first of his is scarce 42 years old as yet: I hope nevertheless my present Tables will not erre fenfibly for half a dozen years further, and that in the mean time I may give them a further correction by the help of fuch Observations, as if God spare me life and health, I intend to make, whereby they may be rendred serviceable for a much longer time, without any confiderable faults.

As for the Catalogue it felf I give in it first the Moneth, then the day, and to avoid mistakes I have prefixed the H h h Pla-

Planetary Character for the day of the week to each; then the Hour and Minute of the appearance; counted (after the Astronomical manner from Noone, and lastly the Number of the Satellit that is Eclipsed with an i after it when its ingress, an e when its emersion is the appearance observable at that time. And that it may be readily known which of these are visible in our Horizon I have marked them with a\*betwixt the Number and the Letter. Thus in the fixth line of the Catalogue you find O6 | 12-29 | 4\* i, which shews that on Sunday the fixth of that Moneth at 12h 29' after Noon, the fourth or utmost Satellit makes its ingress, and is Eclipsed in I's shadow; and the Numbers under it 15-39 4\*e that the fame day 15h 39' after Noone, or that on the 7th day at 3h39' in the Morning, it again emerges from the shadow, and becomes visible betwixt it and the body, and the \* aded to them both, shews that both appearances are visible with us.

If it be required to know whether any one of those invisible with us be visible in any other given place. Convert the difference of Meridians betwixt it and London into time. And if the place lie to the East of London, add it to, if to the West, substract it from the time of the appearance at London, the Sun or difference accordingly shall be the true time of the Eclipse under that Meridian, at which if I be above the Horizon the Sun beneath it, the Eclipse is there visible, otherways not.

Or by the help of the *Ephemerides* of the *Planets* places and a terrestrial *Globe*, the space on it in which any of these *Eclipses* will be visible may be found thus.

First seek the true places of the Sun and Jupiter with his Latitude in the Ephemeredes, whereby you may find their declinations and right ascentions either by the vulgar Tables or the Globe it self exactly enough for this Method.

Bring London on the Globe to the Meridian, and detaining it there note what degree of the Equator is cut by

Noon converted into degrees and minutes, the remainder shews you the Longitude of that Meridian on the earth, where it is then Noon when the Satellit is Eclipsed; which, I therefore call the Meridianal Longitude of the Eclipse. Bring this Meridianal Longitude under the Meridian, and elevate the nearer Pole to the Sun as much as is his declination, keep the Globe in this position and if T be in Consequence of the Sun, draw a line on the Globe along the Eastern Horizon, it passes over all those places where the Sun is setting at that time, but if T be in Antecedence of the Sun, draw the said line on the Globe by the Westerne Edge of the Horizon, it passes over all those places where the Sun is then arising.

Jupiter being in Consequence of the Sun add the difference of his and the Sunsright ascentions to the Meridional Longitude aforementioned, bring the degree of the Equator answering their summe under the Meridian. Raise the Pole next Jupiter equal to his declination, and detaining the Globe in this position, draw a line again by the Eastern Horizon, the space intercepted betwixt this and the line of the Suns settings before described on the Globe, Comprehends all those places on

the earth from Sun setting till # is set.

But if I were in Antecedence of the Sun, Substract the difference of his and the Suns right Ascentions from the Meridional Longitude, set the degree of the Equator answering the remainder under the Meridian, and elevate the Pole next Jupiter equal to his declination. Keeping the Globe in this position draw a line by the Western Edg of the Horizon, the space included betwixt this, and the line of the Suns risings contains all those places, on the Earth where this Eclipse is visible betwixt I rising and Sunrise.

When any Eclipse of these is observed, the difference betwixt the noted time and that in the Catalogue, shall H h h 2

be the difference of Meridians betwixt the place of the observation and London which lies so near the Meridian of the Observatory that the distance need not be accounted for. And this determination may be relied on, if the first or third Satellit were observed; but I dare not be so consident of the second and fourth for the reasons formerly given. However I shall make it my business to observe all such Eclipses of as many of them as shall be visible with us, that by comparing my observations with such as shall be made abroad, the error, if any, may be discovered and Corrected.

When  $\mathcal{Z}$  is in Quartile of the Sun: the distance of the first Sattellit from his next limb when it falls into his shadow, and is Eclipsed, is one Semidiameter of  $\mathcal{Z}$ . Of the second, two or a whole Diameter nearly. Of the third, three. Of the fourth, sive of his Semidiameters, or something better when the parallax of the Orbe is greatest. But these quantities diminish gradually as he approaches the  $\mathcal{Z}$  or  $\mathcal{S}$  of the Sun somewhat nearly but not exactly in the proportion of Sines.

As the Sun removes from the  $\sigma$  of  $\mathcal{Z}$  the Ingresses of the Satellits into his shadow become observable. When he is about thirty degrees from it, the Emersions of the fourth, and at fixty degrees of the third begin to be seen betwixt the shadow and body continuing so till the Sun be arrived within fixty degrees of the  $\sigma$  of  $\mathcal{Z}$ , when the Emersions of the third fall behind his body, but the Emersions of the fourth continue visible till he be less them thirty degrees distant from the  $\sigma$  at which time they also are hid behind him, all the appearances being made really to the right hand or in antecedence of  $\mathcal{Z}$ , tho with inverting Telescopes, they appear to the contrary, the left.

After the opposition of the ① and Z we begin to see the *Emersions* of all the *Satellits* from the shadow, now on the left hand or in consequence of Z, but through

inverting glasses on the right, when the o is near thirty degrees from the opposition of the Ingresses of the fourth, when fixty degrees from it of the third, begin to be observable betwixt the body and shadow, continuing so till the Sun arrive at the fame or rather within something a wider distance from the & of W. Therefore all the Eclipses from the beginning of the year till the of the Sun and Jupiter on the twenty fixth of February are made in antecedence of # but appear through the inverting Telescope on the left hand of him, afterwards till the o in August they are made in Consequence but through the same glasses appear on the right. when he Emerges again from the Sun in September they are made, and appear as in the beginning of the year.

After which time the Latitude of the fourth Satellit becomes fo great that it escapes the shadow and body both of W and suffers no more Eclipses by either of them according to my Tables this year; it will be therefore worth the while for those who are accommodated with good glasses to look for the following Conjunctions of the fourth Satellit with the Axis of the shadow, of which that on November the nineteenth is visible with For if its Latitude be any thing less than I esteem-

ed, it may be Eclipsed.

The Conjunctions of the 4th / Octob. 2 17--07-53 Satellit with the Axis of the Nov. ( 3--01--47 \$ 19--19\*37 shadow when it suffers no Eclipses 1684. are Decem. h. 6--13--24

## [412]

Next year I intend (God willing) to g ve you the like Catalogue with corrections if I find them requisite, something earlier that so our freinds abroad may have timely notice and be incited to mind and observe these appearances.

J. F.

The Observatory at Greenwich, Dec. of 18. 1683.

ACatalogue of the Visible Eclipses of the apparent times of their Ingresses mersions, from it under the Meridian in the year 1684. Calculated from new tions. by John Flamsteed M. R. R. R. R. Feb. b ' Mar. b	n of the Observatory  Tables of their Mo-
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