

fent. This morning Signor Cassini gave mee the honour of a vifitt; his health (God bee thanked) is flourishing & now hee intends to reassume his observations to which the unkindnesse of the Weather made a very sharpe resistance. Particularly this Eclypse¹²⁾ in March hee intends most particularly to observe butt here hee supposeth it will bee small, & lesse discernable then with you in England, & yet lesse then which Monsieur Gregorie¹³⁾ in Scotland to whom I write to intreat the concurrence of his observation to the end that, by comparing, the truth may better come too bee regulated: the same favour hee desires from your Academists in England the exactnesse of whose observations hee hopes will extreamly contribute to the correcting of his. In the meane time his Ephemerides¹⁴⁾ lie not dormant, butt within a moneths time hee told mee hee hoped to have them publisht: as for his other invention about Apogees & excentricities¹⁵⁾, that will not bee digested soe suddenly for hee tells mee it depends upon the orders & determinations of Monsieur Colbert upon whom all the motions of the Royal Academie are to bee calculated; for the measure of their times are sett by him.

Monsieur Huygens.¹⁶⁾ On Saturday last February 22th about 11 of the clock in the morning there came one from Monsieur Huygens to mee who told mee if it were my convenience that Monsieur Huygens desired to speake with mee. I made answer that I had severall times beene to waite upon him since I had heard of his sicknesse butt because the Porter at the gate had told mee that his sicknesse was very violent & that his Physitians had ordered him rest & that hee spoke with nobody, for that reason I had abstaind butt that I should not faile in the afternoone to waite upon him.

At three a clock I came thither, I found him a bed his head rayfed very high & only his servant in the Roome. After I had made my first compliment & was sett downe by his bed side his servant hee commanded to retire & when wee were alone hee turned to mee & having begun with a preface of civility, which expresst more esteeme & affection then I could deserve, hee said, I saw the condition hee was in which was none of the most lively, that his weaknesse & palenesse did sufficiently declare how great a destruction his sicknesse had wrought in his health & vigour & that though all was bad, which I saw, yet there was something worse

¹²⁾ Cette éclipse de soleil eut lieu le 19 avril 1670. ¹³⁾ L'auteur désigne James Gregory.

¹⁴⁾ Les éphémérides des satellites de Jupiter. Les premières éphémérides furent publiées à Bologne, en 1668, sous le titre:

J. D. Cassini. Ephemerides Mediceorum Syderum ex Hypothesibus & Tabulis Joan. Domini Cassini Bononiae. in-f^o. Cassini publiée ensuite, en 1693, Les Hypotheses et les Tables des Satellites de Jupiter, Réformées sur de nouvelles Observations. Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences, depuis 1666 jusqu'à 1699, Tome VIII, page 317.

¹⁵⁾ Nouvelle Maniere Geometrique et directe de trouver les Apogées, les Excentricités, et les Anomalies du mouvement des Planetes. Par J. D. Cassini. Journal des Scavants du 2 septembre 1669.

¹⁶⁾ Ici suivent dans l'original quelques lignes biffées par Oldenburg de manière à rendre les mots illisibles.