SOLAR MYSTERIES.

Of course, yesterday's eclipse of the sun amounted to very little in this part of the country. Of late, every astronomical exhibition of any importance always takes place a great way off. If there is a transit of Venus, our Scientific Persons must go to Kerguelen's Land or Peking, or some other remote and interesting region to observe it, and there has not been a total eclipse of the sun within a thousand miles of this City since eclipses first became popular. This is all very nice for the Scientific Persons, who travel at the cost of the Government, and have the best kind of instruments and canned provisions furnished gratuitously, but it is certainly time that some meritorious astronomical phenomenon should be produced either in this City, or at Coney Island, Long Branch, or some other easily accessible place.

The observations which were to have been made in Colorado yesterday by a scientific picnic party were expected to be of great value. We have learned, during the last few years, many things of much importance concerning the sun, but there are still solar mysteries which are unsolved. We know that the sun consists of a vast mass of matter either in a solid or liquid state. This is surrounded by a photosphere or envelope which throws out light. Over the photosphere is the chromosphere, another envelope which colors the light that passes through it. Looked at through the spectroscope, the chromosphere is sure to be covered with lines of different colors. It has been conjectured by leading Western minds that the chromosphere is painted in alternate blue, red, and white stripes, as a delicate compliment to the American Republic, but, with their usual want of sentiment, the Scientific Persons deny it, and pretend that the lines visible through the spectroscope are caused by the decomposition of light, much in the same way, doubtless, as phosphorescent light is formed by the decomposition of fish. In addition to these interesting facts, we know that outside of the chromosphere is an unknown something called the corona, and that on the surface of the photosphere certain mysterious black spots are occasionally seen. What the corona and the sun spots actually are the astronomers admit that they do not know. Nevertheless, both of these mysteries can be solved by careful inductive reasoning, provided all prejudices are discarded, and we content ourselves with searching for the truth, instead of trying to invent astronomical marvels with the foolish purpose of increasing the importance and reputation of the sun.

The corona presents the appearance of a vast glittering cloud in constant motion. At times it will shoot out conical protuberances to the height of one hundred thousand miles, which soon fall back again, and melt into the rest of the corona. There prevails among some astronomers a theory that the corona consists of burning gas, and that these protuberances are merely flames that flicker. But will they please to explain where the solar gasometer is situated? Gas will not shoot out of a burner to the distance of a hundred thousand miles unless it is subjected to enormous pressure. A gasometer large enough and heavy enough to produce such a pressure would be plainly visible from the earth. Not the slightest indication of a solar gasometer has ever been seen, and hence the theory that the corona is gaseous is clearly untenable.

It will be conceded that the climate of the sun must be extremely hot. What, let us ask is the most conspicuous result of extremely hot weather on the earth? The answer is, flies. The hotter the weather the more the volume of flies increases. This has been painfully illustrated during the last fortnight. The observer on the planet Venus or the planet Mars who has looked at the earth at any time since the 10th of July last has seen a thick cloud of flies hanging over it. The light reflected from the wings of this dense mass of insects must have glittered almost as brightly as the sun itself. Whenever the flies perceived a fat man or a molasses cask, the denseness with which they would swarm about it would present to the Martial astronomer an appearance precisely analogous to that of a protuberance of the solar corona, though, of course, it would be much less magnificent, since the fly-sphere, or envelope of flies surrounding the earth at this season is probably not more than thirty miles in thickness. Sometimes the burning of brush or the prevalence of a sudden hailstorm causes a local and temporary disappearance of flies, and through this opening in the fly-sphere the surface of the earth would become visible as a comparatively dark spot, as to the origin and nature of which the astronomers of other worlds than ours must often have formed elaborate theories

Now, in thus picturing the spectacle which the earth, during the fly season, presents to the inhabitants of the nearest planets, we have virtually described the phenomena of the solar corona and the solar spots. The sun is 320,000 times larger than the earth, and, therefore, has 320,000 times as many flies. It is also constantly in a state of intense heat, and, therefore, its fly season must be perpetual. There are then enough solar flies to produce all the phenomena of the corona. The corona is simply an enormous envelope of flies which surrounds the sun and permeates the chromosphere, just as our terrestrial flies permeate the atmosphere. When a fat solar inhabitant or a solar molasses cask attracts a swarm of flies, we have the appearance known as a protuberance of the corona. When the flies separate, leaving an open space through which the nucleus of the sun is seen, we have what is called a solar spot. We must be careful, however, not to assume that the solar fly-sphere is a distinct envelope outside of a chromosphere. It is, hence, not deserving of a scientific Greek name, and instead of calling it a muiasphere, and thereby giving it equal rank with the photosphere or the cromosphere, it should be called a fly-sphere merely as a matter of convenience.

It is not to be expected that the Scientific Persons will admit this simple solution of the hitherto mysterious solar phenomena. It is not grand enough for them. They will continue to talk learnedly of incandescent hydrogen and solar electric storms. Nevertheless, the theory of the fly-sphere is impregnable. It fully accounts for the corona and the sun-spots, and the reasoning upon which it is based cannot be overthrown by scientific bad language.