

scarcely hold my head up I was so bilious. Mary fed the chickens and got wood for the box stove and coal for the kitchen stove and by noon the nausea had left me so I went out and milled but I still felt very weak so I didn't do very much else and slept most of the afternoon. Mary made me some toast about five o'clock which was the first I had eaten all day and I felt a little better after that and did up the night chores. It has been a beautiful looking day but keen north wind.

Saturday January 24th

This was the day when we were to have had presented to us the greatest and most talked of drama that can be normally produced on the celestial stage; the total eclipse of the sun. The actors rehearsed their parts according to schedule, but alas, the producer, our old mother, drew a curtain on the first act and peevishly refused to raise it, until just as they made their farewells bow to the audience, so all we could do was imagine what was going on before our eyes but behind the scene. I don't know when I have been so disappointed as it has always been my desire to see a total eclipse and I have examined the patent medicine almanac

when they first come for years to see if they promised one, until I had almost come to the conclusion that one was never visible in this latitude, so that I was really about as excited when I read the announcement of this one as a kid is when he sees circus bills for his own town. The worst is, the astronomers tell us that the show won't be around here again for about 250 years and it seems very improbable that any of us will be here to see it then. There was a heavy bank of clouds across the eastern sky before day light but they didn't reach to the horizon and I was in hopes that they would disperse as they sometimes do as the sun rose, but no such luck. The sun came up as bright and clear as it ever did but before I could detect a suspicion of a dint in its rim, it had slid behind the clouds and they were dense enough to completely hide it. Nothing happened till about nine o'clock when we could notice the darkness begin to grow denser. I got up to my picked observatory in the barn where there was a board off, thinking that there might be a slight exhibition of the terrifying and swift moving shadow, which I imagine would be like the childish night mares I used to have of a