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A.R. Eastman of Naval Observatory

TRIAL OF JOHN H. SURRATT PAGE 577, JULY 9, 1867

Testified that on the night of April 14th, he was making observations from about seven o'clock until 11:20.

At six o'clock that afternnon it was perfectly clear. The wind changed to southwest, and soon after the southwestern portion of the sky became some-what obscured. At half past seven it was somewhat hazy. At nine o'clock the sky was about one-third clouded. I recollect that it was about one-third clouded on account of an observation made by one of the clerks who was sent to watch at that time. At ten the sky was nearly obscured. At twenty minutes past eleven it was so cloudy that I could not see stars of the third magnitude.

During that evening was there or not a steady increase of earthy haze up to eleven o'clock?

I think there was; there was a steady increase of cirrous clouds.

At eleven o'clock can you state whether it was or was not dark?

It was comparatively so, because the moon was so much obscured by the haze that the stars could not be seen by a glass, except those of the first magnitude. You could just see their position.

On this night at half past ten, or somewhere between ten and eleven, I went outside of the building and looked at the moon to see if there was any probability of my observing when it came to meridian at three o'clock in the morning. I could just see the form of the moon.