## The Oregon Statesman

 Today's solar eelipse, which will be visible in many parts of
the United States, is not likely to arouse any such feeling of fear
as similar phenomena aroused among the ancients.
Before the dawn of astronomical science eclipses of the sun and
moon aroused superstitious alarm and inspired all the primal races
with awe. moon arou
with awe.
And dread experienced on the oeceasion of an earthquake, a voleanic cruption or a thunderstorm or a cyelone.
The earliest record of an eelipse was that of the sun, observed by the Chinese, B. C. 2158 . The record is meagre and merely says:
"In the last month of the autumn, the first day, of the moon, the heavenly bodies were not in agreement in Fang."
The first record of an eelipse approaehing any definiteness of
aceount was the Ninevah eclipse B. C. 763. The records of these aceount was eclipses are valuable chiefly on account of the data supplied by the dates and for the religious signifieance of such oecurences.
The most notable eelipse recorded in history and the one most frequently mentioned in literature and among scholars was that o
the sun at the time of the battle between the Lydians and Medes, May 28, B. C. 585. The battle was suspended and peace was made through the good offices of Thales.
The most important eclipse, however, in the history of man
kind oceurred in A. D., 840, and which caused the death of Emperor Louis. The three sons promptly engaged in a war among themselves,
which tore the country to pieces. The war lasted three years and which tore the country to pieees. The war lasted three years and
ended with the treaty of Verdun, whereby France, Italy and Ger-
many were carved סut of Charlemagne's vast empire. This was the beginning of the three countries named.
A The first eclipse observed in England oeetirred Fe
Columbus and is mentioned in "The Sood use of his know Chronicals."
Columbus made good use of his lanowledge of eelipses among In the infancy of the human race the earth was supposed to
eenter of the universe, with the sun, moon and stars revolvi around our globe at a certain fixed distance. Not even the
and philosophers of ancient times understood the meehanism of cefestial world. Little enough is known-about celestial subjects a
this day, but an eclipse is the simplest phenomenon of all that occur awong the heavenly bodies.
The early races of men
extinetion by an eclipse as the work of a demon or the wrath of
ui. Enown and superior god, or of a gigantic monster.
In India the dragons Bahu and Ketu were held
suffering endured by the sun and moon at the time of an
Sun worship was prevalent among the aneient Egyptians, Pho
ieians, Assyrians, Persians and Hittites enicians, Asssyrians, Persians and Hittites

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The Egyptians worshipped animals for the most part, but the
Semitic religions were based upon reverenee for astronomical objects
Superstition and ignorance went hand in hand on the ocension Superstition and ignoranee went hand in hand on the oGens
moo
its
alon an eeli path during an hour, which is about the average duration an eelipse. Hence it is clearly apparent that both the eelipse
the moon and of the sun are brought about by the moon's mot suh or the earth.
In olden
In olden times great calamities were associated in the mind faet, an eclipse has no effect on the physical condition verse. The ancient alarm was the most groundless a feeling of solemnity.



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