

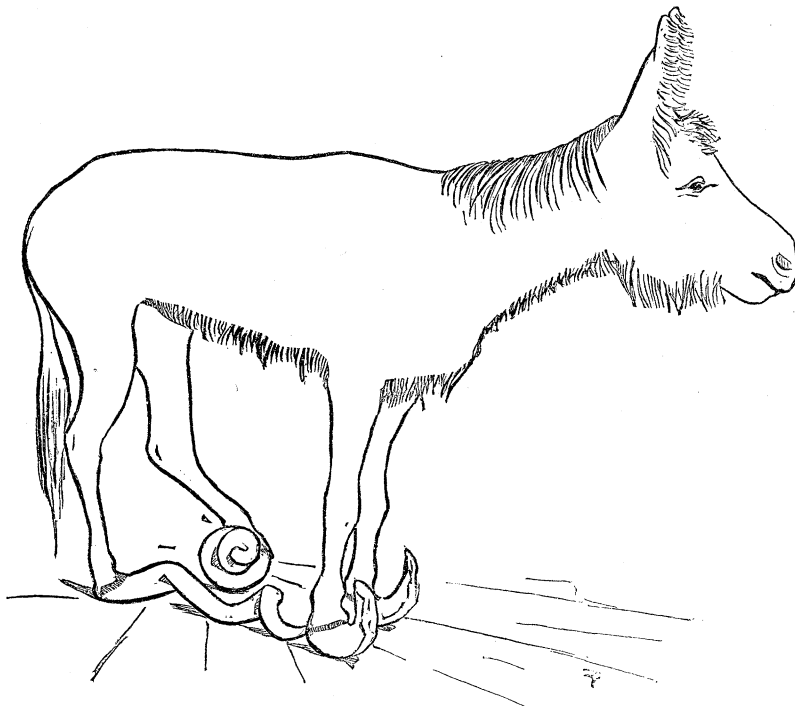
the time of the eclipse of May 6, 1883, and drawn by Mr. Wesley before any information reached this country of the observations of the eclipse, presented not only a general resemblance to those taken during the eclipse, but showed the remarkably formed rift on the east of the sun's north pole, which is the main feature of the corona as photographed at Caroline Island. It is true that since the summer of 1883 I have not been able to obtain in England photographs which show satisfactory indications of the corona; but the abnormally large amount of air-glare from finely divided matter of some sort, which has been present in the higher regions of the air since the

regret greatly that a method which seemed to promise so much new knowledge of the corona, which, under ordinary circumstances of observation, shows itself only during total eclipses, would seem to have failed. At the same time I am not able to offer any sufficient explanation of the early favorable results to which I have referred briefly in the opening sentences of this letter.

Of course, the above statements leave untouched the criticisms I felt called upon to make on the imperfect methods employed by Professor Pickering.

WILLIAM HUGGINS.

Upper Tulse Hill, London S. W., Sept. 11.



AN ASS WITH ABNORMALLY DEVELOPED HOOFS.

autumn of 1883, might well be considered a sufficient cause of the want of success. This well-known state of the sky rendered the plates taken by Mr. Ray Woods in Switzerland in the summer of 1884 inconclusive as to the success of the method. During the past year, photographs of the sun have been taken at the Cape of Good Hope, and are under discussion by Dr. Gill.

Such was the state of things before the eclipse of Aug. 29. The partial phases of this eclipse furnished conditions which would put the success of the method beyond doubt if the plates showed the corona cut off partially by the moon during its approach to and passage over the sun. As the telegrams received from Grenada, and a telegram I have received this day from Dr. Gill at the Cape of Good Hope, state that this partial cutting-off of the corona by the moon is not shown upon the plates, I wish to be the first to make known this untoward result. I

An ass with abnormally developed hoofs.

A pair of very abnormal hoofs has been recently received by the Smithsonian institution from J. C. Baldwin, Esq., of Houston, Tex. They are the hind hoofs of an ass reported to have been bred at San Antonio, Tex., and which was exhibited in Chicago and other cities of the union.

The right hoof is twenty-six inches in length, and is spirally twisted, like the horn of an Indian goat. The left hoof is in the form of a helix.

The front hoofs were not received, but, from the photograph which accompanied the hind pair, it appears that they were also abnormal.

The animal, as it appears in the photograph, is greatly emaciated. The neck and shoulders are clad with rather long, curled hair, while on the posterior half of the body the hair is short and smooth.

F. W. TRUE.

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