Second Occultation of Aldebaran, 1887. By the Rev. S. J. Johnson.

In marked contrast to the occultation period of 1866–9, when only one emersion of Aldebaran was visible from my place of observation and no immersion, the second passage of the Moon over the star visible here this year, on March 2, was seen under a sky even more favourable than the first. Parallax slightly lengthened the duration as compared with Greenwich. Immersion 5^h 40^m 53^s, quite as instantaneous as last January. Sun had reached the horizon but had not descended. At 6^h 0^m 56^s Aldebaran clear of the Moon’s limb, but visible on the bright edge five seconds before this. The illusion conveyed to the eye at emersion, probably from the smallness of the instrument and power, 50 on 3\frac{1}{4} inches, was that the star was shining through the bright limb. The only time I have had this impression before was during the totality of the eclipse of August 23, 1877, when three or four small stars appeared within the reddened disk for 8 or 10 seconds before actually disappearing. The same impression appears to have been conveyed to the eyes of observers at Greenwich and elsewhere on the occasion of the occultation of October 15, 1829.

Melplash Vicarage, Dorset:
March 9.

The Occultation of Aldebaran. By C. Leeson Prince.

I observed the occultation of Aldebaran this evening under very favourable circumstances; the Moon being so near the meridian, the Sun had just set, and the atmosphere was very calm, clear, and diaphanous; nevertheless, the non-illuminated portion of the Moon was not visible.

The disappearance occurred at 4^h 25^m 57^s, and the reappearance at 4^h 48^m 37^s, local sidereal time. The star was occulted, therefore, exactly 22^m 40^s.

The disappearance was absolutely instantaneous, but the reappearance not quite so, a very minute point of light being visible for nearly a second before the star completely emerged; this may perhaps have been occasioned by a slight elevation on the lunar surface at the exact point of reappearance. Telescope 6\frac{1}{8} inches aperture, focal length, 12 feet; mag. power, 144.

The Observatory, Crowborough, Sussex:
1887, March 2.