

**BRILLIANT AURORAL DISPLAY.****SERIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.**

A display of the aurora borealis of extraordinary beauty and brilliancy was witnessed in the heavens last night, beginning at about 10 o'clock and continuing with increasing effect to an early hour this morning. The first formation of the light was an arc that spanned about two-thirds of the northern hemisphere, its feet resting about north-east and west, and its crest reaching about half way to the zenith. At first it was quite faint, and looked like a pale moonlight, but within half an hour the rays had intensified greatly, and began to corruscate and diffuse themselves in irregular patches all over the sky. As it spread around the whole expanse the lateral wave-like motion of the rays increased, and the luminous masses began to throw out long shafts and streamers of light, and several shades of color, including a warm pink, bluish white, and yellow became visible. By 11 o'clock the display had increased so as to attract great attention from people in the streets, and the rays assumed a general inclination from the horizon to the zenith, forming a wavering canopy of light. At the point of convergence, overhead, the phenomenon seemed to concentrate its remarkable power, forming a perfect boreal corona, and the waves rolling steadily upward seemed to meet and struggle and roll against each other in volumes of such intensely white light that the starlit atmosphere beyond them seemed black in comparison.

While the display was very pleasing and effective to the observer, it had a very different effect on telegraph wires as far as the auroral influence was exerted. At the general office of the Western Union Telegraph Company great embarrassment was caused by it, and from about 10 till after 1 o'clock scarcely any regular communication could be had over Western and Northern wires, while those extending East and South were likewise greatly interfered with. The influence of this flow of natural electricity was felt in two ways. Whenever a current of like polarity with the battery current struck the wires it neutralized the current completely and broke the circuit. In like manner currents of opposite polarity which were both powerful and frequent reached the wires and intensified the current to such a degree as to make it unsafe to use the wires at all. Its operation was, of course, intermittent sometimes breaking off communication for but a minute or two. In a great many cases the interruption lasted for over an hour, and at 1 o'clock this morning many offices in leading cities and towns were cut off, and all efforts to connect with them failed. The night Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Sink, said the interruption was the most continuous he had ever known, and that it was retarding business to a very serious extent. The Mutual Union Telegraph Company complained of a similar interruption of business, and reported, also, that the trouble was most serious on the Western wires.

**POUGHKEEPSIE, April 16.**—There was a splendid display of aurora borealis to-night. The shafts ran from the northern horizon to the zenith and were in colors of carmine, blue, and white. At midnight waves of light centered at the zenith, advancing and receding for several minutes.

**BALTIMORE, April 15.**—The display of auroral light to-night was unusually brilliant, extending from the horizon to the zenith, and covering almost the entire northern hemisphere.

**NEW-LONDON, Conn., April 16.**—A beautiful auroral arch was visible at 8 o'clock this evening and during the night, with recurring fits of brilliancy. The arch extended from about 20° east to 15° west of the magnetic meridian and had an altitude at the central point of from 75 to 80 degrees, the "merry dancers" at intervals shooting up to and beyond the zenith. The colors of the light were white below, with a bluish tint and different shades of pink and crimson above. At 11:45 the arch broke and seemed to rise like a canopy, while waves of light flashed over the heavens. Soon the light was focused in the zenith and darted perpendicularly to the horizon in slender luminous beams, showing all the prismatic colors, and forming a corona, or complete aurora, of such rare beauty as has seldom been witnessed.

**HARTFORD, April 16.**—A remarkably brilliant exhibition of the aurora was witnessed to-night in the shape of a boreal crown, the rays radiating in all directions from a point just south-east of the zenith. The waves of light rolling along the radii were very peculiar, and frequently appeared of a rose color. The electricity in the atmosphere interfered considerably with the working of the telegraph instruments, which showed little arches of intense blue light at the points of contact.