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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WEATHER FOR THE TOTAL ECLIPSE

Observers in the path of the total eclipse are wondering whether there will be in the southeastern part of the sky a little clear patch for a few minutes after sunrise next Saturday morning. Some of them have gone to such expense in setting up instruments that they have insured themselves against cloudiness at this time. It is not particularly encouraging to know that the eclipse will occur at one of the cloudiest times of the year and that its path over the Great Lakes and northern Appalachians to the New England coast will pass through one of the cloudiest sections of the country. Moreover, in winter there is in general less chance of a clear sky during the early morning hours than later in the day. The Lake region, east to the Catskills is especially cloudy in January, and there is considerable cloudiness eastward to the highlands of western Connecticut. From there to New Haven there is a fairly rapid decrease in cloudiness.

New Haven has the least average cloudiness in January of any Weather Bureau station in or near the path of totality. New Haven also has a better chance than inland stations of being clear shortly after sunrise, as fogs more often envelop the interior. The 8 a.m. relative humidity at New Haven is below 80 per cent. on the average in January, while stations to the northwest have averages over 80 per cent., and near the Lakes over 85 per cent. at this time of day. East Rock and West Rock at New Haven, furthermore, are high enough to afford observers viewpoints well above the city smoke and the lowland fog of a winter's morning. If, however, a coast storm chooses to come along at this juncture, observers in central New York or points farther west are likely to be happier than those in New England.

(Tomorrow: Frequency of Cold Weather)
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