

For release
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Vernal equinox! Today the sun is crossing the equator on its journey north, and it is the beginning of Spring—the astronomers' spring— for most people think of Spring as beginning on March 1. The sun shines today (if there are no clouds) impartially twelve hours everywhere; that is, it would shine exactly twelve hours were it not for refraction (bending of the rays) due to the atmosphere. As it is, the sun really shines a few minutes more than twelve hours, the exact amount of time depending upon the latitude. At the North Pole, the six months of sunshine had begun a day or two ago due again to the refraction.

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