

XXI. *Observation of the late Transit of Mercury over the Sun, observed by Edward Pigott, Esq. at Louvain in the Netherlands; communicated by him in a Letter to Nevil Maskelyne, D. D. F. R. S. and Astronomer Royal.*

Read June 15, 1786.

S I R,

Louvain, May 27, 1786.

WE have been fortunate here in seeing Mercury's egress.
I observed it thus :

Apparent time, May 3.

H. M. S.

20 45 25 Mercury's limb in contact with the sun's limb;
uncertain.

20 45 37 ditto ditto; certain.

20 47 17 Mercury bisected by the sun's limb.

20 49 22 { Mercury quite out; clouds for a short interval,
which renders the observation rather doubtful.

Though the air was not perfectly free from thin clouds, nevertheless the limbs were well defined. At 20 h. 45' 25'', when I first judged Mercury's limb in contact with the sun's, his form, I think, became rather oval. These observations were made with RAMSDEN's two-feet achromatic, magnifying about 70 times. The above times disagreeing so considerably with the tables will, I imagine, not a little surprise M. DE LA LANDE.

I remain, Sir, with great regard, &c.

EDW. PIGOTT.



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