

## Transit of Venus.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—The following dispatch has been received from Prof. Davidson, chief astronomer of the American expedition to Nogaskig:

During our observations of the transit of Venus to-day the weather was unusually cloudy and unpromising. The time at which it was calculated the transit would begin passed away without our being enabled to record the exact moment of the first contact with trustworthy result.

After about a quarter of an hour, and before Venus reached the stage of her second contact, the observer at the equator caught a glimpse of the sun and planet, and was quite successful in taking several measurements of the planet's cusps. During the interval between which the first and second contacts occurred, these were obtained with success and recorded.

Shortly after the second contact, further measurements of the distance between Venus and the sun's western edge were made with the micrometric instrument.

In all there were taken 150 micrometric measurements of the line between the cusps. Besides these, thirty-one micrometric observations were made of the passage of both edges of the sun across the meridian of the station, and similar views of right and left rims of Venus in crossing the same line.

Micrometric surveys were made of the respective declinations of the sun and planet by observing both the upper and lower limbs while passing the meridian.

About sixty excellent photographs of the transit during the various periods of its occurrence were taken. Extreme good fortune attended our astronomical work, for just as Venus departed from the sun the clouds began to gather and threatened rain.

Toward the close of November we were enabled to telegraph the difference of the longitude to Vladivostok, so that the location of the position here is definitely determined.