

THE TRANSIT OF VENUS

(BY EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.)

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, WEDNESDAY, 12.30 P.M.

The Egyptian expedition for the observation of the transit of Venus has met with complete success. At the Mokattam Heights and at Suez the egress was observed in all its phases. At Thebes, in addition to these observations, a series of fifty photographs were taken with the Janssen's slide by Captain Abney, including the critical instant of contact. From Mokattam Heights telegraph time signals have been exchanged with Suez and Thebes, and with Greenwich, through the submarine line of the Eastern Telegraph Company, which is some hundred miles longer than the Atlantic cable and much smaller.

The Venus transit is now known to have been successfully observed by Captain Orde Brown, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Newton, Colonel Campbell, Professor Dollen, Dr. Auwers, probably Admiral Ommanney, and others.

From the Astronomer Royal, at Greenwich, we have received the following communications:

"Colonel Tennant's observations of the transit of Venus at Roorkee, India, successful; one hundred photographs taken."

"Detailed telegrams of telescopic and micrometer observations near Cairo and Suez, and of photographic observations at Thebes, of the transit of Venus have been received. All are perfectly successful."

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

SHANGHAI, Dec. 9.

During the period of the transit of Venus the weather here was overcast, and the sun obscured.

CALCUTTA, Dec. 9.

The observations here were excellent. Mean time ingress centre was 7.56 a.m.; middle, 10.5 a.m.; egress centre, 12.13 p.m.

MADRAS, Dec. 9.

Satisfactory observations were almost impossible, the endeavours being frustrated by cloudy weather.

KURRACHEE, Dec. 9.

The first external contact happened before sunrise, at 10 minutes 26 seconds past 6. The first internal contact took place when the sun was about $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{5}$ of his diameter above the horizon, at 6.47 a.m. The second internal contact occurred at about 10.35 a.m., and the last external contact at about 11.3 a.m., when the planet quitted the sun not far from its highest point.

The Correspondent of the *New York Herald* at Nagasaki telegraphs as under:

Day cloudy, but obtained second contact well, two observers; first and third contacts through clouds and doubtful; 150 micrometric measures of cusps separation of limbs, and diameter of Venus thirty-one micrometric measures, both limbs; sun and Venus eighteen micrometric measures for difference of declination of limbs at meridian; about sixty good photographs; winds threatening rain; telegraph difference of longitude with Wladiwostock in November. All well.

From Wladiwostock, in Siberia, the following telegram has been received:

Professor Hall reports much haze and cloud at Wladiwostock. First and second contact of Venus observed, and thirteen photographs taken near middle of transit. A calm bay with temperature thirty-four degrees. Instruments and photographic apparatus working finely. All the American party working well.

IMPOSING FUNERAL IN ROME.

(BY SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ROME, WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

The funeral to-day of Signor Desambrois, the late President of the Italian Senate, was very imposing and characteristic, owing to the presence of the diplomatic, military, civil, and religious authorities. The Cardinal Vicar allowed a great religious service to be performed, and the presence of nearly two hundred monks and priests in the procession, on the ground that Signor Desambrois, though a high functionary of the State, was a very old servant of Piedmont, and merely followed the Government to Rome. The procession took nearly three hours in passing through the streets. The troops and the National Guards were present. The Premier, Signor Minghetti, Prince Humbert, the Mayor of Rome, and other distinguished personages, held the pall. All the civil, political, and military bodies followed. The diplomatic corps was fully represented. There were immense crowds along the line of route notwithstanding the bad weather.

THE CIVIL WAR IN SPAIN.

DEFEAT OF THE REPUBLICAN TROOPS.

(BY SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM A CARLIST CORRESPONDENT.)

HENDAYE, WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

The day before yesterday General Loma, with a column of 4,000 men, attacked Urnieta, wishing to force his way to Tolosa. The Carlist advanced posts, which occupied the former place, were obliged to withdraw, but General Egana, coming up with two Guipuzcoan battalions, a bloody engagement took place, which lasted three hours. The Republicans at last gave up the attempt, and the Carlists fell upon them vigorously and drove them back into Ernani in a thoroughly disorganized state. General Loma renewed the attempt yesterday with his whole column of 8,000 men and four guns, but the Carlists had been reinforced by four battalions of Navarrese and two of Guipuzcoans. The engagement lasted all day, and ended by General Loma being obliged to return to St. Sebastian with all his forces. The Carlists lost 200 men and three officers. The Republican losses are believed to be much greater.