The writer is not aware that there was any precedent for such an expedition in Technology's history, but this is easily explained. There has not been since 1869 a total eclipse of the sun visible at points so easily accessible from Boston, and it has only been within a year that there has existed a fund available for scientific research.

Last winter the Corporation appropriated a sum of money to send a party to make time observations in connection with the eclipse of May 28, 1900. The exact determination of the times of apparent contact between the disks of the sun and the moon, and the astronomical location of the point of observation are essential parts of almost all the investigations made during the period of a total eclipse. The most perfect appliances for the study of the physical structure of the sun, of its photosphere and corona might fail utterly, if the latitude and longitude of the observing station were in doubt or if there were any uncertainty about the time.

The instructors in Geodetic Surveying were familiar with these problems, and this work was placed in their charge. Fortunately they were enabled to enlist other Institute men, and the field of observation was not limited to time determinations.

The selection of Washington, Georgia, as the station was a happy one, and by the gathering of other scientific parties at this point, the usefulness of the time measurements was extended and a pleasant interchange of services was brought about.

To find the latitude we used a portable astronomical transit with a two and a half-inch objective carrying a micrometer eyepiece and a very delicate level. The determination was made by measuring by means of the micrometer the differences in the zenith distances of stars culminating north and south (Talcott's Method).

To find the local sidereal time we used the same transit instrument in conjunction with a break circuit sidereal chronometer and a chronograph.

For longitude work we availed ourselves of a time signal received telegraphically from the astronomical clock in Washington, D. C.

A very solid brick pier had to be built for the support of the transit, and all the instruments were protected from the weather by a small shed provided with shutters for giving a clear field of view in the plane of the meridian.

The observations of the four contacts were made by means of two equatorially mounted