

III. *A Letter from Dr. Franklyn, F. R. S. to the Astronomer Royal; containing an Observation of the Transit of Mercury over the Sun, November 9th 1769: By John Winthrop, Esq; F. R. S. Hollisian Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at Cambridge, New England.*

DEAR SIR,

Craven-street, Feb. 12, 1770.

Read Jan. 10, 1771. I HAVE just received a letter from Mr. Winthrop, dated Dec. 7, containing the following account, *viz.*

“ On Thursday the 9th of November, I had an opportunity of observing a transit of Mercury. I had carefully adjusted my clock to the apparent time, by correspondent altitudes of the Sun, taken with the quadrant for several days before, and with the same reflecting telescope as I used for the transit of Venus*. I first perceived the little planet making an impression on the Sun’s limb at 2^h 52’ 41’’; and he appeared wholly within at 53’ 58’’ apparent time. The sun set before the planet reached the middle of his course; and for a con-

* See Phil. Transact. Vol. LIX. p. 352.

“ fiderable time before funfet, it was fo cloudy, that
 “ the planet could not be difcerned. So that I made
 “ no obfervations of confequence except that of the
 “ beginning, at which time the Sun was perfectly
 “ clear. This tranfit compleats three periods of
 “ 46 years, fince the firft obfervation of Gaffendi at
 “ Paris, in 1631.”

I am, S I R,

With great efteem,

Your moft obedient fervant,

B. Franklin.