

STATE SURVEY. 2

SENATE.....No. 11.

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LETTER

*From R. T. PAINE, ESQ. to LIEUT. GOV. ARMSTRONG.*

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BOSTON, January 2d, 1836.

SIR,

I have the honor of communicating to the Executive the following brief account of the progress made during the past year, in the astronomical department of the trigonometrical survey ordered by the Legislature of the State.

The spring of 1835 was not only very backward, but tempestuous and stormy ; so much so, that I was not able to resume my observations until the second week in April. But from that time to the middle of September, the weather was very fine, and the number of clear nights very great, perhaps double that of the number experienced in the corresponding months of 1834. After the middle of September, until the latter part of November, the weather was uncommonly mild, but a great proportion of the nights were either so foggy or clouded as to render observations impossible. During the year, a large number have, however, been made, and, Sir, it is with great pleasure, that I

inform you, that the part of this great work, allotted me, is about or very nearly performed. These observations were made in Cambridge, Salem, Newburyport, Gloucester, Truro, Monomoy Light-House, Nantucket, Holmes' Hole, New Bedford, Barnstable, Sandwich, Plymouth, Taunton, Dedham, Boston, Worcester, Northampton, Amherst, Pittsfield, and Springfield. The reduction of them now fully occupies my time, and will do so, until the month of May next; on the 15th of which month I have long hoped to make my *last* observation, viz. on the eclipse of the sun, which will happen that day; the first solar eclipse that has taken place for many years, equally large in the United States and Europe, and consequently of great value in the determination of terrestrial longitude.

Being, Sir, very anxious to complete my part of the work as soon as possible, I shall continue to labor with great diligence in reducing the observations already made, and hope within six months to have it in my power to present to the Executive my final Report.

Believe me, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

R. T. PAINE.

*To His Excellency* GOV. ARMSTRONG.