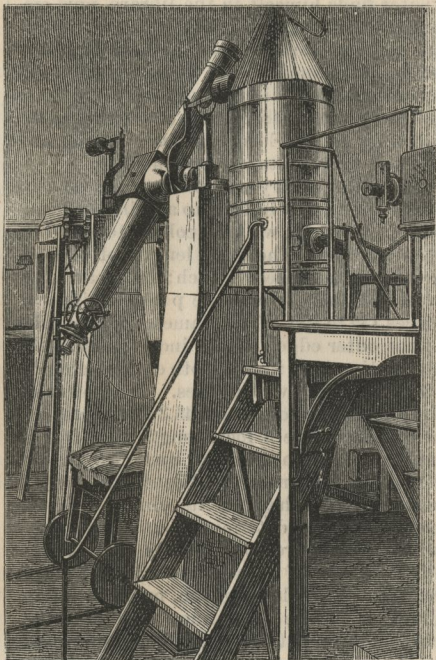


drawn from use. It is as gratifying as it is creditable to American skill to find that the chronometers of Messrs. Negus and Co., of New York, equal, if they do not excel, any of foreign workmanship.

From this room of the observatory the exact time is furnished daily at 12 M. to the Western Union Telegraph office in Washington for dispatch throughout the United States. The naval officer, standing by the standard mean clock, and having the astronomical correction of that clock also before him, at three minutes before 12 M. calls the telegraph operator at his office, and, at the instant of true noon, taps the electric key, giving the time to the company's office. He also drops the dome ball, as before named. The chronometer-room is under the very efficient direction of Commander A. W. Johnson, U.S.N.

We have now taken our visitor through the building so much enlarged since its first erection in 1844, and have had a look at the larger astronomical instruments, omitting some, and excluding from our limited columns notice of the daily meteorological records kept from the time of the establishment of the institution, as well as of the separate reports of cyclones, meteoric showers, etc., made in different years by the professor in charge of this branch, J. R. Eastman, U.S.N. The seven-teen annual volumes of astronomical and meteorological observations now published

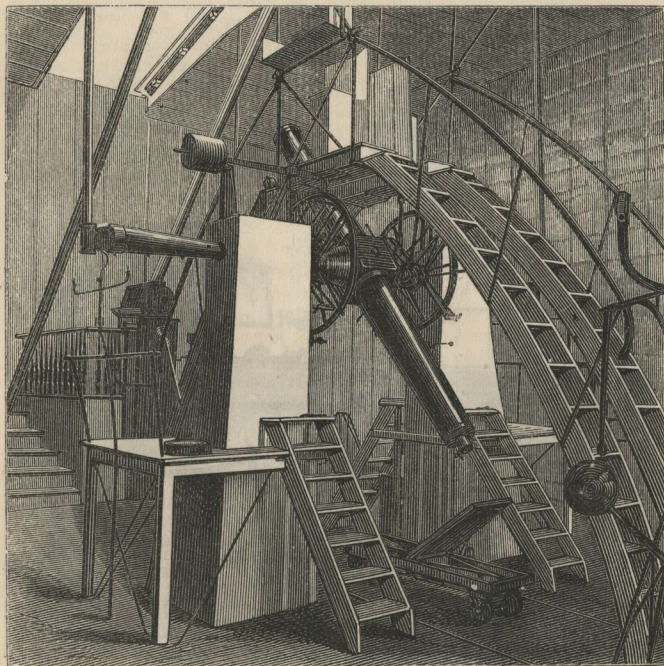


TRANSIT INSTRUMENT—U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY.

best set forth in themselves the work of the observatory. The latest of these volumes vie in extent and in value with the publications of Greenwich and Paris. The star

catalogue, issued as Appendix No. 1 to the volume for 1871, embraces more than 100,000 observations, giving the places of 10,000 stars. It is the twenty years' work of Professor M. Yarnall, embracing the reduction of his own observations and those of others from the year 1845 to 1871. The astronomer knows how to appreciate such a work.

The visitor who comes to gratify even an amateur taste can hardly fail to be interested in his inspection of the observatory. And better still for science, the Congress of the nation, in whose hands is the destiny of the insti-



TRANSIT CIRCLE—UNITED STATES NAVAL OBSERVATORY.