

XLVIII. *A Letter of Mr. William Sher-
vington to Benjamin Franklin, Esq; of
Philadelphia, concerning the Transit of
Mercury over the Sun, on the 6 of May
1753, as observed in the Island of Anti-
gua: Communicated by Mr. Peter Collin-
son, F. R. S.*

S I R,

Antigua, June 20, 1753.

Read Nov. 15, 1753. **M**R. Benjamin Mecom having re-
ceived half a dozen circulatory
letters from you relating to Mercury's transit over
the sun the 6 of last May, he put them into my
hands. One would have sufficed for our island, as
we are not overburthen'd with men, who have a taste
that way. Hereunder I send you the result of my
observation * thereof.

Sunday, May 6, at 6^h 7' 51", I observed the
western limb of Mercury to touch the western limb
of the sun; and, at 6^h 10' 37", he touch'd the same
with his eastern limb, and totally disappear'd. Lat.
of the place 17° 0' N. Lon. by estimation 61° 45'
W. from London.

This was taken by a Graham's watch, and cor-
rected by two altitudes taken by a most exquisite
quadrant; *viz.*

At

* Dr. Charles Rose, who was in Antigua at this time, says, that
these observations were taken by Capt. Richard Tyrrel, of the said
island,

At 6^h 58' 7", I observed the distance of the sun's upper limb from the zenith = 72° 21' 30". And, at 9^h 31' 5", I observed the same = 36° 17' 0".

By the common process (which you may have, if necessary) I found the watch was 0° 4' 4" 28''' too fast* ; therefore,

	h	'	"	'''
From	—	—	—	—
Take	—	—	—	—
True appar. time of Merc's. exit here,	6	6	32	32

Pray impart your observation to

Your Well-wisher,

William Shervington.

island, and who is possessed of a valuable collection of astronomical instruments, made by Mr. Bird in the Strand, London, and that Mr. Shervington only was present.

* Mr. Shervington has taken the mean of these two altitudes from the error of his watch; and there can be no doubt that his observation is a good one, which, compared with that made in Surry-street by Mr. Short, *p.* 199, *l. i. &c.* fixes the longitude of the place of his observation in Antigua 4^h 5' 30", or 61° 22' 30", west of St. Paul's, London.