THE SUN SPOT PERIOD.

THE PRESENT SUN SPOT PERIOD.

The year 1892 has been a period of great solar activity, sun-spots, or storms on the sun, having been very frequent.

These may be expected to continue during 1893 and 1894, the storms being accompanied occasionally with brilliant auroras-such as



those of February 13th and March 12th, 1892, -but more frequently with heavy weather, wild storms of wind, and rain (or snow).

Group of spots on Sun's Eastern limb, 1892, Feb. 14th 9h. 30m. morn.

These periods of solar activity, when the sun is frequently covered with spots, return at intervals of eleven or twelve years, with special accelerated displays every sixty-five years. The perihelion and aphelion passages of the larger planets, Jupiter and Saturn more especially; have been credited with causing these displays.



E.

Group of spots near centre of Sun, 1892, Oct. 30th, 12h. noon.

other sun's many times larger than himself-communicated to him across distances wellnigh unfathomable to human thought.

The uppermost of the above sketches is the group alluded to in the following cablegram, which appeared in the Times of London, Eng., Feb. 19th, 1892, and was afterwards extensively copied by British newspapers :-

While they have no doubt

an influence and a decided

one; I also think that the

sun may be affected periodi-

cally by other influences-

that of the fixed stars-those

Prof. Walter Smith believes that the Eastern group of spots on the Sun is accountable for the existing disturbances on the Earth, because it is frequently noticed that, when a great group swings into line around the Eastern edge, storms and displays of the aurora occur here. The concomitant conditions of Sun storms are great precipitation and severe cold. He looks for a damp and cool spring in England and the North of Europe. He is of opinion that, provided the solar activity continues, great storms will be frequent during 1892, 1893 and 1894.

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