

chasing value then in comparison with the present time. This, of course, was an inducement for good men to accept the position if offered them.

Professor Airy turned his attention to the Royal Engineers who were conducting the Ordinance Survey of Great Britain for men who had practical experience in the use of instruments of the first-class and who had been inured to camp life, as these would be better adapted for the work than young men connected with the observatories. So he wrote Col. Colby, the Superintendent of the Ordinance Survey and that officer recommended Capt. Robinson and Lieut. Phipps to be well adapted for the work if the regulations under which they served as Royal Engineers could be relaxed so as to permit of their absence from England and employment on the International Boundary Survey. Through the representations of the Earl of Aberdeen, Secretary of State, Viscount Canning, of the Foreign Office and others — the appointments were made; also a number of others belonging to the Corps of Royal Engineers were appointed to assist by taking charge of parties on the work and maintaining discipline. Professor Airy had the two astronomers at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, acquiring practice and skill in such astronomical work as they had to undertake on the boundary, for some months before the expedition set out. J. D. Graham, Topographical Engineer of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, was the astronomer for the United States and also directed the operations of the American parties in the field. He was a very capable and painstaking observer and was said to be the first field astronomer to determine the latitude by observing the difference of the meridional zenith distances of two stars on opposite sides of the zenith, a system still considered among the most reliable and used almost exclusively in the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the United States. In determining the difference of longitude between points on the 45th parallel, the British and American astronomers worked together, a mountain was chosen which could be seen from both directions by observers stationed from 40 to 60 miles apart, and parties were sent equipped with powder,