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FINDING A PLANET

The Discovery of Neptune and a Curious Coincidence.

A PROBLEM TWO MEN SOLVED

Unaware of Each Other's Efforts, John Couch Adams and Le Verrier Simultaneously Attained the Same End—A Wonderful Feat in Mathematics.

The discovery of the planet Neptune—that mighty world swinging in the great deeps of space nearly 3,000,000,000 miles away from our own earth—was the cause of a singular controversy between two great astronomers, one English, the other French. This controversy raged for years in journals, papers, books and in learned societies. Here are the facts:

The distant planet Uranus had been discovered by Sir John Herschel on March 13, 1781. It is 1,781,280,000 miles from the sun.

When a new planet or comet is discovered mathematicians of the highest rank at once compute its orbit or path in space and publish its ephemeris, giving its exact position for the future. A number of astronomers made ephemerides for Uranus; but, unlike the other planets, it kept "running off the track," always out a little further than computed. Again astronomers soon made new and accurate as possible tables, yet Uranus would not obey. Then they all knew that there was a world far and away beyond that by its attraction made the disturbance. None was free to begin the gigantic work of computing where it was, in what direction, its distance and its orbit.

John Couch Adams, a young mathematician in Cambridge, England, attacked this problem, the greatest yet undertaken by the human mind. Adams was aged twenty-four years when he began the memorable research. This was in 1843.

The labors of Hercules were surpassed by this intellectual giant, and in September, 1845, he sent his results to the Greenwich observatory. But they were not published to the world. In October he called at the observatory and left another paper giving full elements of the planet. And the astronomers of England did not search for the new world with their telescopes.

But meanwhile the great French astronomer, U. J. J. Le Verrier, older by several years than Adams, began a solution of the huge problem. He published his part one of researches on Nov. 10, 1845, and part two June 1, 1846. Adams and Le Verrier were not aware of their mutual labors.

On Sept. 1 Le Verrier, in France, not having a telescope, wrote to Dr. Galle in Berlin to look for the new planet. This letter was received in Berlin on Sept. 23, 1846. When night came on Dr. Galle turned the telescope at the designated point in space, and soon the eye of man saw the hitherto unknown world at the mighty distance of 2,789,831,000 miles from the sun, making one circuit in about 105 of our years.

The apparent angular diameter of the moon and sun is very nearly half of one degree, but Neptune was discovered within one degree of the computed position, or the average of both of these illustrious mathematicians. The solution of this capital problem has ever been considered the highest achievement of pure mathematical astronomy. At once controversy began between France and England for honors. It was finally settled that both men were worthy of equal praise and exalted honors so long as men shall inhabit the earth.

It may be of interest to the reader—it was to me—to say that I heard the venerable and aged Professor Adams read a very abstruse mathematical paper in Philadelphia in the year 1887 before Section A of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Every astronomer in the room gave close and respectful attention—Edgar Lucien Larkin in New York American.

A Town That Dates From the Flood.

Ieonium, or Konia, as it is better known today, in Asia Minor, 300 miles east of Smyrna, held by some archaeologists to be the oldest city in the world, derived its name from the elkones, or images of mud, which, according to the ancient legend of the place, were made by Prometheus and Athena at the command of Jupiter, who after the flood, caused the winds to blow upon the elkones and they became living men and women. Thus, according to this tradition, Ieonium was the first place settled after the flood.

Better Service.

Vincent Bryan, the song writer, was breakfasting at 1 p. m. in a restaurant not many miles remote from Forty-second street and Broadway. A process server who wanted Bryan for a witness in a lawsuit slipped in and dropped a subpoena in his lap as he sat at the table.

"Ah," said Bryan, "the service here is improving." Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

Thoroughly Ventilated.

"What you need most," said the physician after he had examined the patient, "is plenty of ventilation."

"Gee, doctor," the sick man replied, "you must be mistaken. I've been operated on three times in the past year and a half." Chicago Record Herald.

Sin and penalty go through the world with their heads tied together.—Plato.

NEWS of the CHURCHES

Baptist

Preaching every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. A. C. Eaton, Sunday school at 10 a. m., H. N. Huntley, supt. B Y P U at 6:30 p. m. Mrs. Eaton, president.

Catholic

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Stayton; Rev. A. Laineck priest in charge. High mass second fourth and fifth Sundays 8:30 a. m., Priest's address: Sublimity, Oregon.

St. Boniface's Catholic Church, Sublimity; Rev. A. Laineck, rector. Low mass 8 a. m., high mass 10:30 a. m., first and third Sundays in the month; high mass 10:30 a. m., second, fourth and fifth Sundays. Vespers at eventide.

Christian

Services will be held every Sunday. Preaching at 11 a. m., and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 10 a. m., Mrs. G. D. Hobson, superintendent, Y. P. S. C. E. at 6:45 p. m., Miss Florence Morton Pres. Ladies Aid society meets each Wednesday at 2:30 p. m., Mrs. G. D. Thomas, Pres., H. E. Rossell, pastor.

Methodist

Methodist Episcopal Church, order of services: Bible school at 10 a. m., A. S. Pancoast, superintendent. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Midweek Prayer and Bible Study, Wednesday, 7:30 p. m. Epworth League, Sunday, 6 p. m., Clark Mace, Pres. Ladies' Aid Society, Thursday afternoon, Mrs. J. R. Gardner, Pres. Pastor of the church, E. Sutton Mace.

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SAVED BY DREAMS

Curious Cases of Warnings That Came In Slumber.

TOLD OF DEATH OR DISASTER.

Lucky Escapes Due to Heeding the Mysterious Messages of the Prophetic Visions—A Vivid Dream That Resulted in Preventing a Murder.

In spite of the number of authenticated cases of dreams that have come true, the percentage of prophetic dreams that are actually fulfilled must be very small. However, it must be confessed that a considerable number of people have escaped death or disaster by paying heed to a dream warning.

Wrecks have figured in more than one prophetic dream, both the loss of the Republic and the Berlin being foretold in dreams. A man was once about to sail for Norway with a friend, but on the night before he should have started he dreamed that he stood upon a mountain surrounded by water and that the water gradually began to submerge the peak. Just as he was in danger of being drowned he woke, and so vividly was the dream impressed upon his mind that he decided not to sail. A few days later the ship by which he should have traveled went down with all hands.

Then there is the case of a lady who was about to leave India for England, but was deterred by a dream. Several days before the date set for her departure she had a vision in which she saw the vessel by which she was to sail on fire in midocean. The sequel was that a fire actually did break out under the conditions indicated, but after hard work by the crew it was extinguished without loss of life.

Yet a third instance was mentioned in one of the shipping papers a few years ago. An apprentice up for his second mate's ticket failed and was sent to sea for another voyage in a sailing ship. He was appointed boatswain of a fine sailing ship trading with Australia and New Zealand. The night before he signed on he had a vivid dream in which he saw his ship sailing along in fine weather under a full spread of canvas. Soon a thick bank of sea fog closed round the clipper, although the dreamer could still see everything on board as clearly as before. All at once something glimmered through the mist, and before anything could be done a huge iceberg crashed into the ship, the noise of the collision and the falling spars waking him. So vivid was the dream that the vessel left without her proper boatswain, and since then she has figured among the missing. The curious thing about it, said the narrator, was that never before or since can he remember having dreamed of sea life.

It is also on record that a shipwrecked crew were once brought back to civilization through the instrumentality of a dream. An East Indianman ran ashore on inaccessible island, in the Atlantic, and for three months the passengers and crew subsisted as best they could. During that time a rough boat was built, and in this they were transported to Tristan D'Acunha. Several weeks later a ship appeared off the island because her owner had dreamed a shipwrecked crew had landed there. As clothes were scarce, rough and ready garments were made out of some green and red batze which happened to be on board. Curiously enough, before the return of the vessel the owner's wife had a dream in which she saw it sailing into port with people dressed in green and red on board.

Now and again a miner relates a dream that saved him from sudden death, although strangers do not often hear these stories. There was once a bad accident at a Derbyshire pit, several men being killed by a fall of the cage. One of the men who should have been in that cage was absent, for he had a dream that it was dashed to pieces, falling from the very top with all the men inside it. On hearing the dream his wife persuaded him to stay at home that day.

When Melton Prior, the famous war artist, died most of the papers told the story of the dream warning he had when in Zululand. At first he determined to disregard it, but it made such an impression on him that he at last determined to keep away from the column he intended to join. He engaged another man to go, and he was among the first killed.

From time to time crimes, even murder, have been prevented by a dream. A lady saw in a dream an old relative being murdered, so she posted off to her house and was surprised to find the door opened by the very man she had seen commit the deed. She obtained permission to sleep with the old lady and before retiring asked the two sons of the latter to sit up all night in the adjoining room.

As soon as the old lady had gone to sleep she got out of bed and locked the door and then lay awake, listening. After what seemed hours a ray of light appeared under the door and the knob was carefully turned. Leaping out of bed, she called the sons, threw open the door and found the manservant outside with a coal scuttle in his hand. On being asked by the lady and the men what he wanted he replied that he had answered the bell (but no bell had been rung, and in the coal scuttle was a knife). Then he saw the game was up and confessed. The day before his mistress had received her rents, which were kept in her room until they were paid into the bank the next day, and he had suddenly determined to murder her for the money. London Family Herald.

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