THE WONDERS OF THE STARS

WRITTEN BY A BANKER

How mysterious are some of the phenomena observed in the heavenly bodies How can we account for the variations of some of the stars? As an example the star Algol, in the constellation Perseus, for 2 days, 13½ hours is a star of the second magnitude; then it suddenly decreases, and in 3½ hours is diminished to ten fourth magnitude. It then increases in brilliancy, and in a further period of 3½ hours again attains its maximum. All this takes place in 2 days, 21 hours, 49 minutes. Another star, Mira, in the constellation Cetus, for 5 months remains invisible, then it reappears, its light gradually increasing for 2 months, and for 15 days it is equal to a brilliant star of the second magnitude, repeating the variations in a fixed period of 331 days, 15 hours, 7 minutes.

We are accustomed to regard the so-called "fixed stars" as being absolutely stationary in the heavens. This, however, is not so, as the whole of the stars are in rapid movement. As an example, Arcturus is calculated to move through space at the prodigious velocity of no less than 197,000 miles an hour, or 54 miles per second. In a century, therefore, this great star traverses no less than one hundred and seventy thousand millions of miles. And yet to our vision his position in the heavens is practically unaltered, so vast is his distance from us. Our sun itself is calculated to be traveling at the annual rate of 153,000,000 miles towards the rbighter star Vega, which is now such a brilliant spectacle in the zenith; but as that star is calculated to be more than 115,000,000,000,000 miles distant from the sun, we need not be alarmed lest there should be a collision in our time, as even supposing Vega to be advancing towards the sun at the same terrific rate, the crash woul not take place until 375,000 years, so prodigious is space. Vega, however, is by no means a distant star, but may be reckoned as one of our nearest neighbors, another bright star Capella, being reckoned to be more than four times her distance. But the vast body of the stars are plunged in the illimitable, fearful abyss of space, infinitely more profound and incalculable distances, it being ony of the very nearest stars that the parallax can be taken, and the distance thereby calculated.

A celestial phenomena which has given rise to much popular error, is that of the "shooting stars." It was long imagined by the uneducated that shooting stars were really fixed stars falling from their position in the heavens, and a brilliant display such as that of November, 1866, (which will be repeated in 1899), giver rise to considerable perturbation amongst the ignorant. These brilliant visitants, however, are but minute fragments of cosmic matter, a belt of which appears to revolve round the sun, and through which the earth travels in the months of August and November, which, rushing through space at an infinite speed, are raised by friction with our atmosphere to a heat so intense that, in a few seconds from the first impact with the air, they are resolved into gas. The average weight of these little bodies is estimated at about two ounces, but occasionally much larger bodies come within our range, which continue in an incandescent state for several seconds before being consumed, and presenting a most brilliant appearance. These are popularly termed meteors. And occasionally yet larger bodies, of metallic origin, which have been wandering through space for ages, come within the sphere of attraction of our earth, and plunge, with deafening roar, into the soil. These are the meteorites, or "thunder bolts" which may be seen in many of our museums.

How absolutely regular and immutable are the laws which govern the movements of the heavenly bodies! The earth performs its journey of 580,000,000 miles round the sun in 365 days, 6 hours, 9 minutes, 10 seconds and 75 hundredths of a second, never varying probably the hundredth part of a second, and, from year to year, and from age to age, travelling over the exact position, relatively to the sun, it had previously traversed, and this notwithstanding that it is rushing along at the rate of 68,000 miles an hour, and that it is also revolving upon its own axis at the rate (at the equator) of 1,000 miles an hour. These two movements are performed with such exact and absolute punctuality that astronomers can calculate with unfailing accuracy, and without the error of a fraction of a second, astronomical events which will happen many years hence.

The slightest divergence from these fixed and immutable laws would involve us in overwhelming and appalling ruin. But He who formed these laws can also alter them; and, moreover, He has revealed to us in His word that at a certain fixed time, known not even to the angels, but only to Himself, some such divergence will take place; and this earth of ours will be burned up and destroyed; and, udging from what we have seen in other parts of the universe, we can assume that the final catastrophe will be caused by the impact of some great body in space, whose course will by the Almighty fiat be directed towards the earth. Perhaps even at this moment this body is on its way, and hastening on to involve, at the fixed moment, this world and all it contains, in fiery ruin and overwhelming annihilation.

"Being that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness; looking for and hasting unto the day of God, wherein the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. But the day of the Lord wil come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, ad the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Something About This World-Famous Old Church.

The architecture of Westminster Abbey dates back to a remote period, but long before any part of the present "glorious pile" was in existence, a Saxon church stood upon the same spot. Many years before the Conquest, the Saxon church was connected with a monastic body of the Benedictine order, which gave the name "Western Monastery," or "Westminster" to this place of abode, to distinguish it from St. Paul's, in London, which was known as "East Minster."

Considered architecturally, the first church here, of which we have any authentic history, was erected by Edward the Confessor, and consecrated on Holy Innocents' Day, 1065. The greater part of the Abbey was built by Henry III. in the style known as early English. The west front, with its grandly beautiful windows, belongs to the fifteenth century, as does also the completion of the nave and aisles. The extreme length of Westminster Abbey is five hundred and eleven feet; the width across the transepts is two hundred and three feet, and the width across the aisles, seventy-nine feet; the heighth of the roof is one hundred and two feet.

The fortunes of the abbey have followed and are closely interwoven with those of the nation, and many, therefore, are its historical associations. There the sovereigns of England have been crowned ever since the Conquest. The coronation stone, brought from Scotland by Edward I, may still be seen under the coronation chair used by Richard II; this chair has ever since been occupied by English rulers during the coronation ceremonies.

Within the walls of the abbey the funerals of many crowned heads have taken place, and sovereigns and members of royal families have graves and tombs beneath its roof. Oliver Cromwell never wore a crown, but his remains were deposited for a time in a vault beneath Henry VII's chapel with pomp never surpassed by that of royalty.

The south transept is known to the world as the "poets' corner," because there, sleeping their last sleep, are Chaucer, Spenser, Ben Jonson, Cowley, Dryden, Beaumont, Addison and Tennyson, and near by are monuments to Shakespeare, Milton, Isaac Watts, Goldsmith and Johnson.

In the north transept are buried many renowned statesmen. There lie Pitt, Wilberforce, Fox, Peel, Canning and Palmerston. Many eminent divines, men of letters, generals, admirals and other persons known to fame are buried beneath the marble pavements or have monuemnts by its pillars or on its historic walls.

If you have ever seen a little child in a paroxysm of whooping cough, or if you have been annoyed by a constant tickling in the throat, you can appreciate the value of One Minute Cough Cure, which gives quick relief. Charles Rogers.

WHAT NEXT?

Ten Cents a Piece is the Price now Offered for Live Mice.

Not a little curiosity has been attracted recently by the advertisement of a Westfield, Massachusetts, firm, offering five cents each for live mice in any quantity. So badly are mice wanted by the concern that the offer was soon raised to ten cents for each and every live mouse delivered.

Some weeks ago a shoe dealer arranged in his window an exhibition of live mice and a teeter board. A mouse running up the little board would incline it in the opposite direction, and as the lively little creatures scampered back and forth over the board it would be almost continuously teetering.

The show attracted much attention, and other inventive minds saw its possibilities as an advertising scheme, and improved on it by replacing the teeter board by an inclined disc, which rotated rapidly when the mice ran over its surface. From the disc was evolved a hat or umbrella teetotum. This is the most adanced stage.

A toy company quickly saw its possibilities and arranged to put the thing on the market. An agent with a sample case of the attractions was sent to the large cities of the central and middle states, and he had but to show it to make a sale on the spot.

The company now has orders far beyond its powers to fill, the chief cause of delay being the scarcity of mice. That is why the price of the rodents is quoted at ten cents in Westfield.—New York Sun.

A few weeks ago the editor was taken with a very severe cold that caused him to be in a most miserable condition. It was undoubtedly a bad case of la grippe and recognizing it as dangerous he took immediate steps to bring about a speedy cure. From the advertisement of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and the many good recommendations included therein, we concluded to make a first trial of the medicine. To say it was satisfactory in its results is putting it very mildly, indeed. It acted like magic and the result was a speedy and permanent cure. We have no hesitancy in recommending this excellent Cough Remedy to anyone afflicted with a cough or cold in any form.—The Banner of Liberty, Libertytown, Maryland. The 25 and 50 cent sizes for sale by the Estes-Conn Drug Co.

LARGE FAMILIES THE FASHION.

The baby carriages in Germany are made double, with seats for two, which are generally needed in all families, although the occupants are not usually of the same age. There is always a new baby ready to ride before its predecessor is ready to walk. Large families are the fashion, and the emperor has set a good example to the people in this respect. He has recently had his photograph taken surrounded by his seven beautiful children, and this group portrait is now for sale in the shops of Berlin.

MR. KIPLING AS MOWGLI.

The Poet Shows That He Has a Charm With Animals.

An American traveler who spent some time in company of Rudyard Kipling in London lately tells the following story: "One afternoon we went together to the Zoo, and while strolling about our ears were assailed by the most melancholy sound I have ever heard, a complaining, fretting, lamenting sound, proceeding from the elephant house.

" 'What's the matter in there?' asked Mr. Kipling of the keeper.

" 'A sick elephant, sir; he cries all the time, we don't know what to do with him,' was the answer.

"Mr. Kipling hurried away from me in the direction of the lament, which was growing louder and more painful. I followed and saw him go up close to the cage, where stood an elephant with sadly drooped ears and trunk. He was crying actual tears at the same time that he mourned his lot most audibly. In another moment Mr. Kipling was right up at the bars, and I heard him speak to the elephant in a language that may have been elephantese, but certainly was not English. Instantly the whining stopped, the ears were lifted, the monster turned his sleepy suffering eyes upon his visitor and put out his trunk.

"Mr. Kipling began to caress it, still speaking in the same soothing tone, and in words unintelligible to me at least. After a few minutes the beast began to answer in a much lowered tone of voice, and evidently recounted his woes. Possibly elephants when 'enjoying poor health' like to confide their symptoms to sympathizing listeners as much as do some human invalids. Certain it was that Mr. Kipling and that elephant carried on a conversation with the result that the elephant found his spirits much cheered and improved. The whine went out of his voice, he forgot that he was so much to be pitied, he began to exchange experiences with his friend, and he was quite unconscious, as was Mr. Kipling, of the amused and interested crowd of listeners aobut the cage. At last, with a start, Mr. Kipling found himself and his elephant the observed of all observers, and beat a hasty retreat, leaving behind him a very different creature from the one he found.

" 'Doesn't that beat anything you ever saw?' ejaculated a compatriot of mine as the elephant trumpeted a loud and cheerful good-by to the back of his vanishing visitor, and I agreed with him that it did.

" 'What language were you talking to that elephant?' I asked, when I overtook my friend.

" 'Language? What do you mean?' he answered with a laugh.

" 'Are you a Mowgli?' I persisted, 'and can you talk to all those beasts in their own tongues?' But he only smiled in reply."

A BLESSING TO THE BABIES OF THE POOR — AN ENTERPRISE THAT SHOULD BE FOSTERED.

The prospect is very encouraging that the distribution of pasteurized milk, devoid of all microbic germs, among the children of the poor at a nominal price, will become general in the large cities of the United States. While this benevolence will be a blessing to the babies, our adult population enjoy an equally great one in the benefit conferred by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters upon persons afflicted with kidney and bladder complaint. Danger from Bright's disease and diabetes is surely averted by this admirable preventive, which is also a safeguard against malarial fever and rheumatism, and a thorough remedy for dyspepsia, constipation, liver complaint and nervousness. Diseases, insignificant at the outset, enlarge their proportions and capacity for destruction through neglect. Another point of importance in usnig this sterling remedy is, that it should be taken with regularity and persistence.

L.....Y RISING A NEW FASHION.

A very novel fashion has been started by the ingenious ladies of Parisian society. It is to give little informal social entertainments very early in the morning. The guests are supposed to keep the engagement, not by the old and familiar process of staying up all night, but by rising early.

Fashionable society has just made the discovery that there is a charm in early rising of which it had always been deplorably ignorant.

The following nivitation explains the nature of the new fashion:

"Manoir de Pierre-close.
"Amboise (Isle et Loire).

"The baroness of Courtepointe requests the pleasure of your company to drink a cup of coffee and hear the lark sing on Saturday, August 21, at 5 o'clock in the morning.

"N. B.—Dancing in the dew."

THE OBJECTION NOT GOOD.

There are people who have objections to advertising matter in the columns of a newspaper. The ground of objection is that they do not want to read advertisements. Now this objection is not good, for oftentimes these advertisements convey valuable information. For instance, how else would the traveling public learn of the excellent dining car service of the Wisconsin Central lines between St. Paul and Chicago, or the general comfort of traveling over this popular line. For particulars call on the nearest ticket agent or address J. C. Pond, G. P. A., Milwaukee, Wis., or Geo. S Batty, General Agent, 246 Stark street, Portland, Or.

A RICH TREAT IS PROMISED.

The Oregon State Fair for 1897—September 30 to October 3.

Railroad rates reduced.

The Southern Pacific will sell tickets at one fare rates for round trip from all points on their lines in Oregon.

You will be entertained from morning until night. No time to rest. Liberal prizes offered for all kinds of sports, such as baseball, tug-of-war, chopping contests, foot races, hammer throw, shot put, and various other sports in charge of a competent committee. Don't overlook the date and the cheap railroad rate of one fare for the round trip.

Popular admission of 25 cents.

A CLEAR CASE.

Politician Who Divided Honors With the Te Deum.

"Talk about conceit," said a hotel lounger to a reporter, "The worst case of it I ever knew happened to a man in my town."

"Tell me about it," said the newspaper man.

"Well, you see this man had been a good church member ever since he was a boy, but he got into politics, served as member of legislature, judge, mayor of the town and in half a dozen other positions, and for ten years he never darkened the door of the church.

"One Sunday night he heard there was going to be some fine singing by the choir, so he ordered his carriage and drove to church. He was a little late, and as he started up the aisle the congregation arose to sing the 'Te Deum.' Well, sir, the politician thought they were getting up out of respect for him, and he held his head as high as a peacock's and, waving his hand, said: 'Sit down, ladies and gentlemen. I'm gratified, but, then, I'm no better than any of you. Please resume your seats.'

"Now, if that wasn't conceit, I don't know what it is; but you can't blame him after all; all politicians are built that way."—Washington Star.

The "Bicyclist's Best Friend" is a familiar name for DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve, always ready for emergencies.

While a specific for piles, it also instantly relieves and cures cuts, bruises, salt rheum, eczema and all affections of the skin. It never fails. Charles Rogers.

A LIFE-LINE ABOVE NIAGARRA.

The scheme of John S. Macklem of Niagara Falls to stretch a light wire cable across the Niagara river just above the danger point at the falls, for the purpose of aiding people who are swept in boats or otherwise toward the brink, is said by those who have investigated the matter to be quite feasible. In order to hold the cable at an equal distance above the water all the way across Mr. Macklem proposes to run a light metal or rubber tube, about three-eighths of an inch in diameter, along the top of the cable, with bulbs at intervals, these bulbs and the tubes connecting them to be filled with ordinary illuminating gas, such as is used in ballon ascensions, small incandescent lights to be placed at intervals along the line so that it may be seen at night. The estimated cost is $5000 or $6000.

Goernor Black to whom the proposition has been submitted, is said to think favorably of it; and Private Secretary Griffiths has written to Mr. Macklem suggesting an act of legislature.—Buffalo News.

If your child is puny, fretful, troubled with glandular swellings, inflamed eyes, or sores on the head, face or body, a course of Ayer's Sarsaparilla is needed to expel the scrofulous humors from the blood. The sooner you begin to give this medicine the better.

LESS LOSS OF LIFE.

Traveling by Steamboat has Been Made Much Safer than Formerly.

The annual report of the supervising inspector general of the steamboat inspection service to the secretary of the treasury for the fiscal year is of unusual interest. It shows a steady decrease in the loss of life from steamboat travel. In fact, the loss of life on steamboats is much smaller than traveling in other ways. It is even probably safer than horseback riding or carriage travel.

It is estimated that during the year 650,000,000 passengers were carried on steam vessels. The total number of accidents resulting in loss of life during the year was 26. The total number of lives lost from these accidents was 183, a decrease from the previous year of 35. Of the number of lives lost 46 were passengers and 137 belonged to the crews of vessels.

Those who believe chronic diarrhoea to be incurable should read what Mr. P. E. Grisham, of Gaars Mills, La., has to say on the subject, viz.: "I have been a sufferer from chronic diarrhoea ever since the war and have tried all kinds of medicines for it. At last I ound a remedy that effected a cure and that was Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy." This medicine can always be depended upon for colic, cholera morbus, dysentery and diarrhoea. It is pleasant to take and never fails to effect a cure. 25 and 50 cent sizes for sale by Estes-Conn Drug Co.

CLAIMS.

"There are a great many calls on your time, arn't there?" said the genially inquisitive friend.

"Yes," replied the weary eyed man. "I bought that clock on the installment plan."

Sometimes the most careful women are the most careless. Many a woman bundles herself up to keep out sickliess—when he is neglecting the very worst sickness that can come to a woman. She allows a slight disorder to become worse, to slowly sap her vitality. The little pain and the other slight indications of trouble seem to her unimportant. She goes on, with increasing suffering, until life itself becomes a drag. Nervousness, sinking spells," digestive disturbances, and fifty other complications may arise from the derangement of the organs distinctly feminine. Over thirty years ago the need for a reliable remedy for so-called "female complaints" was recognized by Dr. R. V. Pierce, then, as now, chief consulting physician to the World' Dispensary and Invalids' Hotel at Buffalo, N. Y. He prepared Dr. Pierce's Favortie Prescription, the most wonderfully effectie remedy that has ever been used for such maladies.

Send 21 cents in one-cent stamps and receive Dr. Pierce's 1008 page "Common Sense Medical Adviser," illustrated.

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Holds the world's record for long-distance fast running.

A Map of the United States

The new wall map issued by the Burlington Route is three feet four inches wide by four feet long; is printed in six colors; is mounted on rollers; shows every state, county, important town, and railroad in the Union, and is a very desirable and useful adjunct to any household or business establishment.

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Purchased in lots of 5000 the maps cost the Burlington Route nearly 30 cents apiece, but on receipt of 15 cents in stamps or coin the undersigned will be pleased to send you one.

Write immediately, as the supply is limited.

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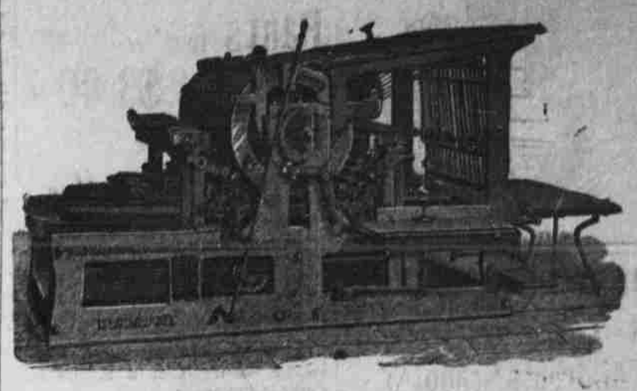

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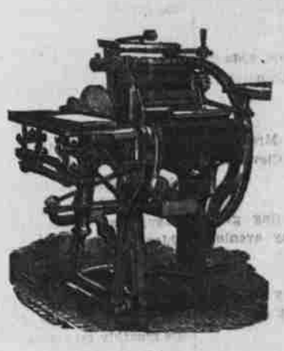

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