THE MAIDEN'S AIM.

lted her neatly, from head to feet,
snowballs soft and with snowballs fleet,

eemed to think it no end of fun;
she was busy preparing one,

g, pounding it hard and sound,
snow scooped up from the fleecy ground.

aimed—she her missile fair and clear;
did not dodge, for he did not fear;

imly waited to see it fly,
ar from its target wildly shy.

, whack! on the side of his smiling face
ight it right in the very place

nd meant to paste it. By Jove, and Mars,
upiter Ammon, but he saw stars!

r brother, a base-ball pitcher tall,
aught and trained her to throw a ball.

his gay young fellow, who laughed with glee,
bravely awaiting her onslaught, he

d sadly home, and 'twas later when
ted a smile to his mouth again.

—Madeline S. Bridges, in Jury.

THE GIANT SUN.

endous Size and Power of Sirius, the Dog-Star.

Light Exceeds That of Our Sun, hose Diameter Is But One-Seventeenth of His, Nearly Five Thousand Times.

those unacquainted with the mar- of astronomy the above title may ar a little strange. For surely our nust be considered a giant, "giant ce," as Sir John Herschel says, "and e in strength, but withal a benevo- giant, being the almoner of the Al- ty, the delegated dispenser to us of and warmth, the immediate source our comforts, and indeed of the possibility of our existence." Is then, any orb in the heavens su- or to our sun, and more worthy to yled a giant?

comparing things on earth, we look this our planet as a giant, relative e size of any thing terrestrial; our est mountains, our deepest oceans, ut specks compared with the huge of the earth. Then look at Jupi- the noblest of the planets, acting as ordinate sun to his system of sat- es. This globe is hundreds of times er than our world, and its mass even eds the combined mass of all the r planets. Yet vast as is the bulk Jupiter, he seems dwarfed into insig- ance compared with the sun's mag- ent globe; a thousand Jupiters d not make up the volume of the nor outweigh his mighty mass. To k of any other orb as being a giant would seem to imply that there ex- in the universe a globe bearing some proportion to the sun as the sun to Jupiter, or Jupiter does to our h. Inconceivable as the idea of a globe may be, it is, however, a globe that I now wish to de- e. As the late Richard Proctor said; dighty as is the globe of the sun, e is an orb more than a thousand s vaster. Grand as is the scheme d by the sun, and inconceivable as the forces exerted by the sun upon orbs which circle round him, there sun which exerts forces many times e mighty on orbs which themselves ably exceed our sun in mass and me. Magnificent as is the concep- that our sun with its attendant fam- f planets is sweeping through space rate of two or three hundred miles y minute, the sun of which I speak es a far mightier train through e at a rate many times greater." k towards the south any clear night ng the winter months, and you will low down, a star which will imme- ely arrest your attention, not only its superior brightness, but also by onstant change of color, at one mo- t red, at another green, at another te. This is Sirius, the famous Dog- of the ancients, the most brilliant in the heavens and the largest wn orb in the universe. It is diffi- to conceive that this beautiful star globe much larger than our sun; yet a fact that Sirius is a sun many times mightier than our own. That ndid star, which even in our most erful telescopes appears as a mere t of light, is in reality a globe emit- so enormous a quantity of light and that were it to take the place of sun, every creature on this earth d be consumed by its burning rays. rius shining with a greater luster any other star, it was natural that nomers should have regarded this ing the nearest of all the "fixed" s; but recent investigation on the nces of the stars has shown that nearest to us is the Alpha Centauri, r belonging to the southern lati- s, though it is probable that Sirius out fourth on the list in order of nce. For though there are about en or twenty stars whose distances been conjectured, the astronomer s that in reality all of them, save e or four, lie at distances too great measured by any instruments we at present. Astronomers agree in g the distance of the nearest star enty-two million of millions of miles; it is certain that the distance of is more than three and less than times that of Alpha Centauri, most y about five times; so that we are ably not far from the truth if we the distance of Sirius at about a dred million of millions of miles! t a vast distance is this which sepa- us from that bright star; words figures of themselves fail to convey ur minds any adequate idea of its character.

r way to take a common example of illus- sdemeaning such enormous distances: It is ht to a calculated that the ball from an Arm- m to hang hundred-pounder quits the gun vermin a speed of about four hundred holes its per second; now, if this velocity remembered be kept up, it would require no hich thirty-one than ten million years before the hether it could reach Sirius! Again, take f Lincoln swiftest form of velocity of which e winter have any knowledge, light, which els at the rate of nearly two hun- d thousand miles per second, or about ive million miles a minute, yet the ance of Sirius is so vast that it takes rly twenty years for its light to th us; so that if Sirius was suddenly ecome extinct, we should not be ac- inted with the fact till twenty years ce.

ow, the work the astronomer has to n order to calculate these distances ne of the greatest problems he has olve, and the manner of his investi- ion may not be out of place. By way Illustration, take a room having two doors looking in the same direction; stand at one window and select a ain object, say a tree, and notice the tion in which it stands in relation surroundings; then look from the r window at the same object, and will find that its surroundings have ghtly changed; they have apparently shifted their position, owing to your having observed them from a different point of view. This is precisely what an astronomer does to determine the distance of a star; the earth in her wide circuit round the sun is in winter on the opposite side of the sun to what she was in summer, and consequently the earth's distance from the sun being about ninety-one million miles, we see the stars from two different points of view, one hundred and eighty millions of miles apart. But vast as is this baseline, any change in the position of a star is, with one or two exceptions, altogether inappreciable, and Sirius stands barely within the limits of any approximate estimation. In fact, this star, viewed from the two extremes of the earth's orbit, shows a displacement of position equal to about the five thousandth part of the moon's diameter, so that it is almost impossible for astronomers to determine the distance or dimensions of Sirius by this means.

Bright as the Dog-star appears to the naked eye, in the telescope it appears as a mere point of light; and even in the largest telescopes constructed, though its light is greatly increased, a definite disc or outline, as is seen in the planets, is quite undiscernible; for if the power of a telescope was sufficient to "raise a disc on the star, it would be almost an impossibility to distinguish it, owing to its great brilliancy; for as Sir William Herschel tells us, when Sirius was about to enter the field of view of his forty-feet reflector, "the light resembled that which announces the approach of sunrise;" and when the star was in the field of view "it appeared in all the splendor of the rising sun, so that it was impossible to behold it without pain to the eye."

Now, if astronomers could measure the disc of Sirius, they could from that determine its distance and measure its dimensions; but as no outline is appreciable, they resort to comparing the light received from this star with that which we receive from the sun, and by this means they are able to form some conclusion as to its probable size. After the most careful comparison of the light of Sirius, the sun and other stars, astronomers agree in fixing the volume of Sirius as exceeding our sun nearly five thousand times, and his diameter as exceeding our sun's seventeen times, so that the diameter of this giant orb is probably no less than over fourteen millions of miles!"

To the philosophers and scientists of the last century, it must have appeared incredible that at any future time scientific discoveries would have enabled us to tell with certainly the composition of the stars. Yet during the last fifty years the science of spectrum analysis has so far advanced, as to give us undeniable proof of the existence of certain elements in the sun and also in the stars, similar to those with which we are acquainted on earth As Dr. Higgins says: "We now need not teach our children that little couplet 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are!' because we really know; we have in the place of wonder, knowledge." Of this method of ascertaining the composition of a distant body by its light, it is sufficient here to remark that it is due to the fact that, when a ray of light has by means of the spectroscope passed through a glass prism, it is spread out into a broad band comprising all the colors of the rainbow. This band or spectrum is in the case of the sun and other similar bodies crossed by a number of fine dark lines, which correspond to the various elements present in their constitution. Now, if certain gases, such as hydrogen or sodium, be burnt and their spectra examined, lines similar to those in the sun's spectrum will be found; and if the two are compared, the presence or absence of such elements in the sun may be inferred. By this means of spectrum analysis it has been found that the sun contains a large number of terrestrial elements, including hydrogen, iron, sodium, magnesium, zinc, lithium, copper, oxygen and many others; of these, the first four mentioned have been discovered in Sirius; and doubtless most of the others exist also, as the spectrum of this star resembles that of our sun in all essential respects, though it can not be observed under the same favorable conditions.

By means of the spectroscope a very wonderful discovery had been made respecting Sirius. Astronomers has noticed that this star was in rapid motion through space, as it was found that year by year it was changing its position in the heavens, traversing in about fifteen hundred years a space equal to the apparent diameter of the moon, at a velocity of no less than twenty miles per second. Of course, by actual observation the only motion capable of being detected would be that which was square to the line of sight, so that although Sirius appears to us to move across the heavens, he may really be traveling in a slanting direction, either towards or from us. No one would ever have expected to be able to tell whether a star was approaching to or receding from us, yet even this seemingly insolvable problem has of late years been accomplished by the spectroscope. Dr. Huggins, our greatest authority on this subject, having identified certain lines in the spectrum of Sirius as those of hydrogen, found on comparison that these were displaced in such a manner as to indicate that the star was receding from us. It has been estimated that this recession combined with the thwart motion of twenty miles per second, gives as the actual movement of Sirius in space a speed of about thirty-three miles per second.

These, then, constitute some of the chief items of information about Sirius at present within our knowledge.

There seems to be no reason to doubt that, in common with other suns he has his system of planets circling round him after the manner of our own sun; and what a system! Vast as ours appears, it is dwarfed into insignificance compared with a system whose ruling orb is five thousand times larger than that which does duty for us. There seems also no reason to doubt that these planets are intended to be the abode of life; it may be that at the present moment none of them present any signs of life; but I think we may safely infer without improbability, that each one of those worlds has a destined period in its development during which, life, similar to that which now prevails on our planet, would be in existence. What a world such a one would be, in size perhaps not inferior to that of our sun, himself a million times larger than our earth; and it may be that as this Sirian world is so vastly superior to ours in size, its inhabitants would be on a scale in proportion to its dimensions, a race of beings of such intellect and civilization, compared with whom we are but savages.

Such systems as these may possibly belong to a higher order of existence, a state of things to which we can never attain, and a degree of perfection to which we can never hope to arrive. Be this as it may, we have sufficient evidence to prove that Sirius is a sun of the highest order of creation, and an orb well worthy to be titled "the giant sun," for of all the stars of which we have any knowledge, none other more worthily deserve distinction than this, the great Dog-star, the king amongst suns.—Chambers' Journal.

FAMOUS REPARTEES.

Great Men Whose Wit Formed Part of Their Greatness.

A friend of Socrates once bade him give his nature full play and be himself. "Oh! yes," replied the sage, "and whenever I show my face out of doors, have all the urchins of Athens at my heels, shouting, 'Yonder goes the biggest blackguard in Greece unhung!'"

Apellos, the greatest of Greek painters, used to hide himself behind his pictures to hear what folks would say of them in his absence. And, far from despising the criticism of "outsiders," he rather invited it; indeed, cordially welcomed it so long as he felt sure that they knew what they were talking about. Thus, on one occasion, he gladly accepted the strictures of a shoemaker, who found fault with the painting of a sandal in one of his pictures. But when the man of leather began to criticise the leg, Apelles promptly shut him up by saying, "Cobbler, stick to the shoe!"

It is an open secret that the poet Pope possessed but a smattering of Greek. Hence, when he undertook to translate the "Iliad," he often found it useful to consult the friends whom he was wont to meet at his favorite haunt, Button's coffee-house. On one of these occasions, however, a certain passage proved more than a match for all the assembled pundits. While they were vainly cudgeling their brains, a young guardsman, who happened to be present, ventured to suggest that a note of interrogation, judiciously supplied, would remove the difficulty. Now every school-boy knows that in Greek the note of interrogation is represented by a semicolon. But Pope, eager to show his knowledge of that tongue, and at the same time to take the shine out of the young officer who had presumed to teach him his trade, rashly assumed him to be ignorant of that elementary rule of punctuation. So, thinking he had the guardsman fairly on the hip, the poet—who, besides being fearfully deformed, stood barely four feet six in his stockings—sneeringly inquired, "Pray, sir, are you scholar enough to inform the company what a Greek note of interrogation is?" "Yes, sir," said the son of Mars, with a frightful glance at Pope's puny and misshapen figure; "I am perfectly well aware that 'tis a crooked little thing which sometimes asks most impertinent questions."

In one of Dryden's unequal dramas, in which sense and nonsense seem contending for the mastery and 'tis hard to say which wins, a ranting lover is made to exclaim, "My wound is great because it is so small." Immediately on hearing this bit of fustian, the witty duke of Buckingham capped it with the strictly logical and rhyming conclusion: "Then 'twould be greater were it none at all!"

A nobleman, notorious for his unpunctuality, having kept George IV. waiting for him for upwards of three-quarters of an hour, came bustling into the royal presence, exclaiming, with simpering smile, "Ah, sire, better late than never!" "Nay," replied the king, "I think the words of that proverb should be transposed, "better never than late!"

At a hotly contested election for the borough of Cambridge, one of the mob flung a rotten egg, which found—and made its mark—in the face of Thomas Babington Macauley, then an undergraduate. "I humbly beg your pardon, sir," pleaded the offender. "Didn't mean to hit you! Aimed at someone else!" "So be it," calmly replied the future historian. "Only, the next time you throw I shall be better pleased by your aiming at me and hitting someone else!"

"What's going on?" asked an intolerable bore, button-holing Theodore Hook as he met him in the street. Quoth the celebrated wit shaking himself free, "I am!" and on he went.—Boys Own Paper.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

—Clara—"Do you suppose I can make an impression upon Mr. Wickliffe tonight?" Bell—"Well, if he is as soft as they say he is, I guess you won't have any trouble."—Kearney Enterprise.

—"Ma," said Willie, who had been to the missionary sewing society with his mother, "I feel very sorry for the poor little heathen." "That's right, Willie. I am glad to see you show such a spirit." "Yes'm. I feel sorry for anybody that had to wear the clothes that you people were making to-day." — Washington Post.

—"I think that Mr. Sumway is the most disagreeable man I ever met," complained Sue. "Why?" asked Mamie. "He was reading in the parlor and I was playing. I stopped and said, 'Does music annoy you while reading, Mr. Sumway?' 'No,' said he, '*music* never annoys me, Miss Sue.' I just detest him. So there!"—Harper's Bazar.

—"Don't you think," said a youth, after working his vocal cords with intense vigor beside the hotel piano, "that I ought to go on the stage?" "Yes," replied Miss Pepperton, who doesn't like him very well, "I certainly do. There is one that leaves for the station just an hour and a half from now."—Musical Courier.

—"If you don't want me to know where you've been, Henry, when you come home this way," said a wife to her late and somewhat demoralized husband, "you had better run up stairs when you are coming to bed. "Why sho, m'dear?" "Because by running up stairs you will lose your breath."—Demorest.

—"Professor Brooks, of Johns Hopkins University, argues that man is descended from the fish and not the ape," remarked a swell society man to a K street girl. "What do you think of it?" "Well," she replied frankly, "when I think of the dudes I know I am inclined to give the ape the preference, but when I think of the suckers one meets at every turn I am forced to believe that man in his original condition was a fish."—Washington Star.

—"Do you know, George, I wish you would stay at home to-morrow." "Why, darling?" "O, because this afternoon a terrible-looking tramp came here while you were away, and ordered me to give him something to eat, so I had to give him all that sponge-cake I made last Saturday, and, George, he says he's coming back to-morrow." "Did he eat the cake, darling?" "Yes, all of it, every bit." "Well, then, set your mind at rest, dear; he will never come back."

A GIANT OF MODERN WARFARE.

In these days of education and civilization we hear very little of the tyrannical work of the so-called Giant as of old. Such stories were the vague imagination of writers for the amusement of children, and calls to mind 'Jack the Giant Killer, Fe Fi Fo Fum, be he alive or be he dead, I grind his bones to make me bread." and many other nursery rhymes. But it is a fact that a Giant was born to the world that is making his power felt. A Giant, instead of being a terror to all, proves a friend to every family. The Great Sierra Kidney and Liver cure is the giant of all remedies, as the public are testifying daily. A sure cure for the many disorders of our bodies caused by diseased kidneys and liver. In nine cases out of ten one bottle proves sufficient. Purely vegetable, delightful to the taste, a beautiful all-the-year-round remedy.

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"Did you go to the seance last night?" "Yes." "Did the spirits materialize?" "No; but the medium told some." "Told some what?" "Material lies."

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SEATTLE, Feb. 22, 1890.

On the 11th of September, 1889, I called upon Dr. Jordan with what the doctors said was inflammatory rheumatism. My right hand was the size of four, and I had not been able to sleep for several nights. Dr. Jordan prescribed for me, and told me to obtain some small bottles in which to put the medicine. I thereupon went into a Seattle drug store and asked for some bottles, remarking that I wanted them to put Dr. Jordan's medicines into. A lady who was present gratuitously remarked that Dr. Jordan was a quack. I paid no attention to this, as I had previous experience with the doctor, who relieved me of a misery in which other eminent physicians failed. In just two weeks I could write with my hand, and it has been well ever since. The only objection I have got is that I paid $6 for the medicine and got well before I used one-half of it, and now I have $3 worth of medicine I have no use for, which is aggravating.

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The human heart is like a feather-bed. It must be roughly handled, well shaken and exposed to a variety of turns to prevent it becoming hard.

NATURE IN CONVULSION

Is terrific. Volcanic eruptions, cyclones, earthquakes are awfully and tremendously picturesque, but scarcely desirable to emulate in action and effect by the administration of remedies which produce convulsion and agony in the abnormal portion of the human frame. Such is the effect of the old-fashioned virulent purgatives happily falling more and more into disuse, and of which Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is the wholesome, pleasant and far more effective succedaneum. They weakened the intestines—the Bitters invigorates them. They left the bowels inactive, because incapacitated by ensuing feebleness. The Bitters, on the contrary, and because it enables, not forces, them to act—a vast and fortunate difference—perpetuates their activity and regularity. The liver is beneficially stimulated, as the kidneys also are, by this medicine, which readily conquers also malaria, nervousness and rheumatism.

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As sweet as a rose and as bright as the May,
When her liver is all out of gear?

She can't. It is impossible. But if she will only take Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery it will cleanse and stimulate her disordered liver, purify her blood, make her complexion soft and rosy, her breath wholesome, her spirits cheerful and her temper sweet. All druggists.

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Card from Mrs. Johnson.

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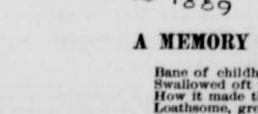
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If you must sell Corn, Wheat, Butter and Eggs at present prices you must buy Cheaper or expect hard times. We offer, tariff or no tariff, one of our leading Coffees, 20lbs full weight $3.75; ground, ready for use, cheaper grades at 15c. Baking Powder, 5lb tin $1; never heard of complaint; try it and report. Starch, best big lumps, 6lbs, 25c; 50lb boxes 45c; 200lbs $1. White Beans, No. 2, but fair quality, 2c. Tea Dust, 75 lbs, $3.75—good to use, but we would rather sell you teas at 20c, 25c, 30c or 35c. Canned Tomatoes, good pack, $1.75 case. Corn, $1.90, $2.40, $2.75 a case that has no equal. Table Fruit, three grades, per case (2 dozen in a case, mind), $3.50, $3.75 and $4.25; these are fine; have cheaper, but not recommended. Flour, $1 sack, or $4 bbl; will you try this kind? Axle Grease at $1.75 a case. Chewing Tobacco, plug, 5 brands at 30c; 2 or 3, including Lorillard's 10c Nuggets at 35, full weight. Shoes and Stockings—Men's Button Shoes, 5 to 10, at $1.45; neat and worth buying; a better grade in Lace that have proved cheap at $1.75; then our $2.50 Sunday Shoe in Button, Congress or Bals. that is lace with hooks has no equal; it would be called cheap here at $3, and in some places brings $4. 0. Men's low cut shoes, all styles, widths and sizes from 5 to 9, at $1.50; were made to sell at $3.50, but have not found buyers at that figure. Ladies' Kid, Goat or Calf, button, in standard widths, only $1.50, is the cheapest we could recommend; have Kid at $1.25, but not so good, though neat and salable; for higher cost shoes see regular list in *Home Circle*. Misses one lot of over 300 pairs, cloth and kid lace, regular stock cost $1 to make, we sell 11, 11½ at 50c, 12 and 12½ at 60c, 13 and 13½ at 70c, or six pairs any size for $3. Children's stout goat, calf or kid lace Shoes, fit for every-day wear, size 2 30c, size 3 35c, size 4 at 40c, size 5 at 50c; the big sizes are all sold at double the money; they have heels. Infants' Shoes, light or dark, in sizes 1, 2, 3, either ankle tie or lace boots at 20c to 35c, as to size and kind; the ankle ties are light color. Men's ½ hose in small and medium sizes, fair quality, per doz, 65c, 75c, 90c; better quality and full to extra sizes, $1, $1.25, and fine and heavy $1.35, all ribbed top and extra value. Women's Stockings, not our best of our worst, at $1 dozen or 10c pair in stripe, plain, mixed, white or balbriggan, some of the latter used to bring 25c pair; try them if you ever wear Stockings. It costs too much to advertise in the newspapers or we would tell you of 10,000 articles we offer at 30 to 100 per cent. lower than any credit store on the Coast. Send for *Home Circle* if you have not had it or do not get it regularly; it is issued every month. Address **Smith's Cash Store, 418 Front San Francisco, Cal.**

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Search your early memory close,
Till you find another dose:
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