

GIANT ARCTURUS

The Fourth Brightest Star in All the Heavens.

REALITY A MONSTER SUN.

It is Thought to Be at Least a Hundred Times Larger Than Our Sun in Diameter and is About Nine Hundred and Fifty Million Miles Distant.

Most of us are prone to think of our sun as being the largest body in the heavens, the grand high lord of all the little planets and the twinkling stars.

There is one of these stars in particular that has attracted the attention of astronomers, not only on account of its great size, but also its enormous distance from our solar system. This is the star Arcturus.

Arcturus is thought to be at least a hundred times larger than the sun in diameter. That would make it 10,000 times larger in surface, or the dimension that is ordinarily compared.

The elements composing the sun Arcturus are, peculiarly enough, very nearly the same as our sun. As it is one of the most wonderful and astounding things that a scientist can do.

Another interesting thing is the method pursued in determining the great distance of the stars. This is done by determining their parallax or angle.

Formerly it was a general custom to erect crosses at the junction of four roads on a place self consecrated according to the piety of the age.

She - He was desperately in love with her. Why, he went her costly flowers and presents nearly every day for two years.

HOUSES OF SCUTARI.

A Possible Reason Why Their Windows Are Iron Barred.

Of all villainous roads those outside of Scutari are the most depraved. They are not roads at all, but just washes and wallows and ditches and stone gullies.

And then the houses—the villas I had expected to see—dear me, how can I picture those cheap, ugly, unpainted, overdecorated architectural crimes?

"I suppose that is to keep the neighbors from stealing their wives." But the horse doctor, wiser and more observant, said:

AMOY'S GRAVEYARDS.

The City and the Cemeteries Are Hopelessly Intermingled.

The city of Amoy is on an island of the same name. For upward of 1,000 years it has been an important trading place. The population of the island is estimated at over 400,000, and it has been said that there are something like 5,000,000 dead bodies packed in its soil.

The wells from which the city draws its water supply are shallow and are sunk on the edge of graveyards and even among the tombs themselves. The water is muddy and is colored by the perpetual turning up of the soil.

The Zulu Diamond Miner.

As showing the loyalty of the Zulu diamond miners Sir William Crookes described an amusing incident which came to his knowledge when at Klipdam. The Zulu had been superintending a gang of natives on a small claim at the river washings.

King and Commons.

King James I. of England, although keenly alive to his own divine right, yet recognized the power of the house of commons. Sir Robert Cotton was one of the twelve members to carry the famous declaration against monopolies to the king of Newmarket.

Crossroads Burials.

Formerly it was a general custom to erect crosses at the junction of four roads on a place self consecrated according to the piety of the age. Suicides and notoriously bad characters were frequently buried near to these.

Like a Woman.

"If you'll notice," said Flinck, "the poets invariably say 'she' when referring to the earth. Why should the earth be considered feminine?"

Earned.

She - He was desperately in love with her. Why, he went her costly flowers and presents nearly every day for two years. He - Did he finally win her? She - No; he earned her.

THE POKER.

Hardly Changed Since the Days of the Early Metal Workers.

As the first fireplace was a circle of stones at the mouth of a cave, so the first poker was a piece of green stick. It was necessary to have something to knock the logs together with when they began to burn through the middle, and as primitive man did not wear boots he could not use them to kick the hot embers into place.

The poker has hardly, if at all changed through the ages. It is, as it always has been, simple and severe in outline. It lends itself to no vagaries and to little ornamentation. It is one of the few things which no one has ever patented, because it may be said to have leaped from the first foundry perfect and complete in every respect.

A GREAT BATTLE.

The One Known in History as the "Victory of Victories."

The battle which is known in history as the "Victory of Victories" took place at Nehavend, in Ecbatana, in power in 627 and the empire of Persia, then one of the most powerful of the eastern monarchies. It was one of the most absolutely decisive battles in the history of war, and it was all the more amazing by reason of the fact that it was won by a people who twenty years before had been unknown barbarians, lost in the desert of Arabia.

Arabian historians place the Persian loss in a single day at 100,000 men killed. This may be and probably is an exaggeration, but the fact remains that the Persian dynasty came to an end when the battle was over and that Zoroastrianism, which had been the religion of Persia for over a thousand years, was at once supplanted by Islam.

The victory was so absolutely decisive that it extended the Arabian dominions over the whole of the region lying between the Caspian sea and the Indian ocean. With the exception perhaps of the battle of Tours, no single fight ever made such a difference in the after history of the world.

She Knew the Reason.

He was smoking and musing over the ways of the world. "Old son't," he said at last, "how few people attain their ideals in this world?"

"In what way?" inquired his wife suspiciously, for she was not a woman to be caught off her guard.

"Well," he replied slowly, "I was thinking of Wilmer when I spoke. He had an ideal woman that he was always talking about when he was in college. She was tall and stately in his dreams, and he seemed to have a place in his heart for a small woman and yet—

"Why, he finally married a little thing who hardly comes to his shoulder. I wonder why it was?"

"Perhaps, Fred," she said very slowly and distinctly, "he is like the majority of other men and was afraid to take any one of his size."

A Shocking Tree.

There is a peculiar tree in the forests of central India which has most curious characteristics. The leaves of the tree are of a highly sensitive nature and so full of electricity that whoever touches one of them receives an electric shock. It has a very singular effect upon a magnetic needle and will influence it at a distance of even seventy feet.

Old English Fairs.

Fairs and feasts were formerly held in churchyards in honor of the saint to whom the church was dedicated. In consequence of these popular gatherings being much abused they had to be suppressed in the thirteenth year of the reign of King Edward III., as appears by the following extract, quoted by Spelman: "And the Kyng commanded and forbiddeth that from henceforth neither fairs and markets shall be kept in churchyards for the honour of the Church. Given at Westminster, the VIII of October, the XIII year of Kyng Edwards's reign." - London Queen.

Very Suggestive.

Mrs. Towne—There was a spelling competition down at our institute the other night. The pastor gave out the words. Did you hear about it? Mrs. Brown—No. Was it interesting? Mrs. Towne—Rather. The first three words he gave out were "increase," "pastor," "salary."

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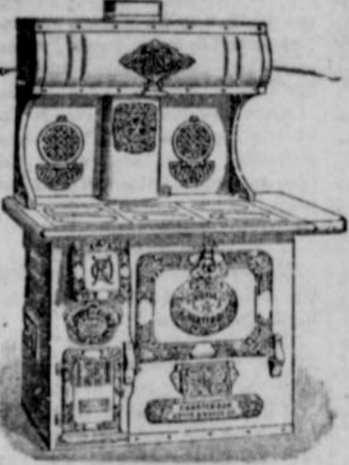
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