

FAMOUS STAR GROUP.

The Constellation Orion in Legend and Literature.

The constellation Orion is mentioned in the literature of all ages. In Egypt it represented Horus, the young or rising sun, in a boat surmounted by stars, closely followed by Sirius, which was shown as a cow. It has also been found sculptured on the walls of Thebes 5,000 years ago.

From the days of the early Hindus to the present the constellation has for some reason borne always a stormy character. Allusions to its direful influence are found everywhere among the classic writers. Thus Milton wrote: "When with fierce winds Orion arrived Hath vexed the Red sea coast."

The loss of the Roman squadron in the first Punic war was ascribed to the fleet having sailed just after the rising of Orion. The group has also been employed as a calendar sign, its morning rising indicating the beginning of summer, its midnight rising the season of grape gathering and its early evening rising the arrival of winter, with its attendant storms. In recent times the group has always represented a great hunter or warrior. Its present title came into Greek astronomy from the Euphrates and originally signified the light of heaven.

BABY TURTLES.

They Know Just What to Do and Do It Without Guidance.

Just so soon as a baby turtle emerges from the egg off he scuttles down to the sea. He has no one to teach him, no one to guide him. In his curious little brain there is implanted a streak of caution based upon the fact that until a certain period in his life his armor is soft and no defense against hungry fish, and he at once seeks the shelter in the tropical profusion of the gulf weed, which holds within its branching fronds an astonishing abundance of marine life. Here the young turtle feeds unmolested while his armor undergoes the hardening process.

Whatever the young sea turtle eats and wherever he eats it—facts not generally ascertained—one thing is certain, it agrees with him immensely. He leads a pleasant sort of life, basking in the tropical sun and cruising leisurely in the cool depths.

Once he has attained the weight of twenty-five pounds, which usually occurs within the first year, the turtle is free from all danger. After that no fish or mammal, however ravenous, however well armed with teeth, interferes with the turtle.

When once he has withdrawn his head from its position of outlook into the folds of his neck between the two shells intending devourers may struggle in vain to make an impression upon him.—Harper's Weekly.

The Roar of China's Ducks.

Tourists in China are always surprised by the number of ducks they see. There are more ducks in China than in all the rest of the world. Their voices are a familiar sound in every town and country spot of the seacoast and the interior of the vast empire. Even in the large cities ducks abound. They dabble between the coolies' legs. They flit squawking out of the way of the horses. Their indignant quack will not uneldom drown the roar of urban commerce. Children herd ducks on every road, on every pond, on every farm, on every lake, on every river. There is no back yard without its duck house. There is no boat, little or great, without its duck quarters. All over the land there are great duck hatching establishments, many of them of a capacity huge enough to produce 50,000 young ducks every year. Duck among the Chinese is a staple delicacy. It is salted and smoked like ham or beef.—New York World.

Willing to Be Reasonable.

"Do you believe in long engagements?" he asked after she had consented to be his.

"Yes, dearest," she replied. "I have always thought it was such a mistake for two people to rush into matrimony before they learned to really know each other."

"Well, about how long would you wish the engagement to be?"

"Let me see! Would you think it was too long if we didn't get married until a week from next Thursday?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

Fellow Worms.

Before Longfellow bought the house in Cambridge so associated with his memory it was owned and occupied by old Mrs. Craigie. Mrs. Craigie was a woman of many eccentricities. Some one once tried to persuade her to have her trees tarred to protect them from caterpillars, which also invaded her neighbors' trees. She refused to be so cruel to the caterpillars. "They are our fellow worms," she said.

Somewhat Surprised.

"Why didn't your boy enter college?" "He couldn't pass the examination." "Do they have to pass an examination? I thought all a college boy needed was some funny clothes."—Pittsburg Post.

His Motive.

Pillows—I never realized till three years ago why Dobson was always preaching patience. Boulders—What made you realize it then? Pillows—I lent him \$10.—New York Globe.

Encouragement after censure is as the sun after a shower.—Goethe.

A GASTRONOMIC JOY.

Old English Recipe For the Famous Soups a la Crecy.

In the "Illustrated London Cookery Book," by Frederick Bishop, late cuisinier to St. James' palace, Earl Grey, the Marquis of Stafford, Baron Rothschild, Earl Norbury, Captain Duncombe and many of the first families of Great Britain (1852), we find this recipe for soupe a la Crecy:

"Cut half a pound of lean ham in slices, three onions, four turnips, twelve carrots (the outer side red only), a head of celery, a fagot of sweet herbs, two blades of mace, six cloves, a bay leaf and half a pound of salt butter. Fry all down in a stewpan until they get a little brown; then add some second stock and stew until all the roots are quite tender; then rub it through a tammy sieve or tammy cloth with two long spoons. If very thick add more stock. Season with cayenne and black pepper and salt and a good bit of sugar. Send up on a napkin some nice fried bread cut in small dice and not greasy."

This is far less elaborate than it sounds and is, indeed, in the main the recognized recipe for the royal soup. The spice is, if anything, a trifle overdone, and the carrots want to be well chosen, as the slightest stringiness destroys the homogeneity of the compound. The bread dice are important and should be fried in the very best butter or superlatively good olive oil.—Pall Mall Gazette.

CORDITE.

Made of Two Powerful Explosives Kneaded into Paste.

Cordite is the outcome of the strange paradox that if you mix together two powerful explosives the result is a smokeless slow burning powder. Nitroglycerin and gun cotton mixed together with a little petroleum jelly make cordite. It is curious to see the two deadly explosives being kneaded together into a paste by women with the same unconcern as dough is kneaded for bread. Indeed, machines similar to those used in bakeries take up the work and knead the buff colored cordite paste for seven hours. Then it is forced through molds and issues in long cords—hence the name cordite—the thickness of which is varied according to the weapon in which it is to be used.

For big guns cordite is half an inch thick and cut into lengths of thirty-seven inches. Rather more than a thousand of these cordite sticks packed in two bundles make up the cartridge for a twelve inch gun. For the rifle cordite is pressed into a very thin string, like the finest macaroni, and sixty of these strands one inch and a half long make the neat little bundle which lies inside the cartridge case. For some European armies cordite is made in flat thin strips like whalebone. Kept away from fire, cordite can be handled with impunity.—London Graphic.

Mountains of Moab.

Most travelers who visit the Holy Land content themselves with a visit to that restricted part west of Jordan. The mountainous regions of Moab as seen by them from Jerusalem are lost in a purple haze that constantly hangs over them, and the great stretches beyond are covered in mystery. This is true partly because of the fever historical incidents connected with the eastern regions, but mainly on account of the great abyss of the Jordan valley that has always acted as a barrier. Few who descend into the valley 1,300 feet below sea level undertake to climb the hills beyond, which rise to a height of 3,000 feet. Though its glory is far outshone by that of western Palestine, still, both in the old and the new dispensations, it has a history of its own and, from an economic standpoint will always enter very largely into the life of Palestine.—Christian Herald.

Victor Hugo's Double.

Victor Hugo had a real double in flesh and blood, who exploited his physical resemblance to the man of genius. He cut his beard like Hugo's, copied the master's dress in its smallest details and so for eighteen years divided with the master the admiration of the public. His especial delight was to pose in a poetical attitude in front of a Punch and Judy show. He did this at a particular spot every Thursday afternoon for years, thoroughly enjoying the murmurs of curiosity and applause proceeding from the gaping crowd which he deceived. We do not hear that he reaped any other reward but his pleasure.

Didn't Like the Suit.

"Sir," said the young man as he entered the library for the purpose of interviewing the father of the only girl, "I am in love with your daughter. Have you any objection to my suit?"

The old man looked the y. m. over from head to foot. "I sure have," he replied. "Why, I wouldn't wear a misfit suit like that to a dog fight. Why don't you try some other tailor?"—Chicago News.

From His Pa's Side.

"She doesn't know where the baby gets his bad temper." "That's strange. Most young mothers can place that sort of responsibility in a jiffy."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Another Definition.

Little Willie—Say, pa, what is a coquette? Pa—A coquette, my son, is a girl who gets more admiration than proposals.—Exchange.

Anger begins in folly and ends in repentance.—Pythagoras.

A HINDU WIZARD.

His Trick That Puzzled an Occidental Master of Magic.

Some of the tricks of the Hindu wizards are past understanding, according to an occidental master of magic who was speaking of his oriental rivals. This is what he says he saw a Hindu wizard do in a club in Lucknow:

"He took a board and placed it on four glass goblets, thus elevating it from the floor. A youngster sitting on the board was requested to place his hands together, palms up. Then the juggler took a glass of water and poured it into the outstretched hands of the boy. In the meantime the boy had been mesmerized, and his attention was fixed on a point indicated by the magician. Gradually the water turned green in color and then developed into a jelly which increased in density until it became as solid as a stone. Out of the center of this appeared the head of a snake, which gradually developed until in the place of the water there appeared a hissing reptile. I was amazed, I can assure you, but the trick was not yet completed. Hitting the reptile upon the head with his wand, the juggler took it up carefully and placed it back in the glass. As we looked it became transformed into a jelly, which in turn melted into a greenish colored water. Clearer and clearer became the fluid until it was of its original color, and then the juggler placed it to his lips and drank the entire contents. This was the most wonderful trick I ever saw performed, and it is as mysterious to me today as it was then."

BANKING IN ENGLAND.

Started by London Goldsmiths in the Seventeenth Century.

The business of banking was not introduced into England until the seventeenth century, when it began to be undertaken by goldsmiths in London, who appear to have borrowed it from Holland. It was attacked, as innovations commonly are, Mr. Gilbert in his "History and Principles of Banking" quotes from a pamphlet published in 1676, entitled "The Mystery of the New Fashioned Goldsmiths or Bankers Discovered," a passage that may be reproduced:

"Much about the same time—the time of the civil commotion—the goldsmiths (or new fashioned bankers) began to receive the rents of gentlemen's estates remitted to town and to allow them and others who put cash into their hands some interest for it if it remained but a single month in their hands or even a lesser time. There was a great allurements to put money into their hands, which would bear interest till the day they wanted it, and they could also draw it out by £100 or £50, etc., at a time as they wanted it with infinitely less trouble than if they had lent it out on either real or personal security. The consequence was that it quickly brought a great quantity of cash into their hands, so that the chief or greatest of them was now enabled to supply Cromwell with money in advance on the revenues as his occasion required upon great advantages to themselves."

A Chinese Hero.

At Loping Hsien is a statue draped in full dress of a mandarin (the putting or police master) named Chin, who gave his life for the people. An exile who was in the camp at Jaochow and who owed the hien (district magistrate) a grudge, rode a black horse to Loping and, having killed the hien, got back for the Jaochow roll call next morning. As the murderer could not be found orders came from the capital that a large number of the people should be killed. To prevent this slaughter of innocent folk the putting, a good old man, said he stabbed the hien after a few words over the wine cups, and he was consequently beheaded. No resident of the district would deal the fatal blow, but an itinerant cobbler or bamboo worker did it for a reward of 40 taels. Tradition adds that he was struck dead by lightning after leaving the execution ground.—Chinese Mercury.

Sameness of Opinion.

"I suppose," said the young man with the soiled collar and baggy trousers as he sat down beside a stranger on one of the park benches, "you would not take me for a member of a millionaire's family, would you?"

"No," answered the stranger after sizing him up; "frankly speaking, I wouldn't."

"Neither would the millionaire," rejoined the young man sadly. "I asked him last night."—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Stuck to His Bargain.

Exasperated Purchaser—Didn't you guarantee that this parrot would repeat every word he heard?

Bird Dealer—Certainly I did. "But he doesn't repeat a single word."

"He repeats every word he hears, but he never hears any. He is as deaf as a post."

Detected.

It was at a Fourth of July meeting in a little city. The mayor, William Smith, rose and at dignified length read the Declaration of Independence.

There was a pause; then from one of the mayor's old schoolmates came the loud whisper: "Bill never writ that. He ain't smart enough."—New York Times.

Unapproachable.

Tall Student—Your father is touchy, isn't he? Short Student—No. That's the trouble. You can't touch him at all.—Chicago News.

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Notice of Sale of Tide Lands.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN.—That the State Land Board of the State of Oregon will sell to the highest bidder at its office in the Capitol Building, at Salem, Oregon, on December 27, 1910, at 10:00 o'clock a. m. of said day, all the State's interest in the tide and overflow lands hereinafter described, giving, however to the owner or owners of any lands abutting or fronting on such tide and overflow lands, the preference right to purchase said tide and overflow lands at the highest price offered, provided such offer is made in good faith, and also providing that the land will not be sold nor any offer therefor accepted for less than \$7.50 per acre, the Board reserving the right to reject any and all bids. Said lands are situated in Tillamook County, Oregon, and described as follows: Tide lands fronting and abutting on Lot No. 5 of Section 4, T. 2 N., R. 10 W. Beginning at a point where the section line between Sections 4 and 9, T. 2 N., R. 10 W., intersects the high water of Nehalem Bay, located S. 59° 51' W., 4754.6 feet from the corner common to Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10 and running thence S. 89° 51' W., 1637.7 feet to low water line. N. 12° 29' E., 651.3 feet along low water line. N. 17° 29' E., 677.0 feet along low water line. N. 89° 51' E., 1350.3 feet to high water line. S. 18° 02' W., 346.9 feet along high water line. S. 00° 45' W., 936.1 feet along high water line to place of beginning, containing 43.9 acres. Applications and bids should be addressed to G. G. Brown, Clerk State Land Board, Salem, Oregon, and marked "Applicant and bid to purchase tide lands." G. G. BROWN, Clerk State Land Board. Dated this October 4, 1910.

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