

THE VERNAL EQUINOX.

The Sun Due March 20th at That Point.

THE NEW EVENING STARS.

The Firmament on Clear Evenings Presents an Interesting Attractiveness to the Star Gazer in March.

THE SKY IN MARCH.
Globe Democrat.

March brings about a highly important event in the career of the sun. On the 20th or 21st day of the month every year the sun is said to enter the vernal equinox, or "cross the line." In 1893 this happens on the 20th. A few days before Christmas, or around the 21st of December, the sun rose, culminated and set in its farthest point to the south and since then it has been moving toward the north. About two and a half months ago it rose in the southeast and set in the southwest, but the places of its appearance and disappearance at the present time are much nearer the true easterly and westerly points respectively. The northward swing continuing the raising and setting will be at their most northerly points on June 21, when Old Sol's advent and extent will be about as far north of the real east and west as, around Christmas, they were south of those points. Then the swing in the opposite direction will begin and be completed on December 21, to be repeated on before, each oscillation taking up about six months. The points in which the sun appears on these two dates are called the solstices, or the sun's standing places. Midway between these two dates, or about March 20 and September 22 each year, the sun passes through the equinoxes, or half-way houses, in its course, the earlier one being called the vernal equinox and the latter the autumnal equinox. The term equinox is formed from two Latin words meaning "equal night." This backward and forward swinging of the sun is due the apparent revolution of the sun around the earth which occupies about a year, or to the real revolution of the earth, around the sun, for it is the earth and not the sun that does the moving, the earth being a planet like Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and the rest of its companion bodies of the solar system. It is more convenient, however, to consider that the earth is stationary and the sun in motion, and this motion is deferred to in popular descriptions of astronomical phenomena.

On March 20, when the sun, sweeping along its course to the northward, dashes across the equinoctial, the sun's rays for the moment will extend from pole to pole, the days and nights all over the globe will be approximately equal, the spring, as astronomers mark off the seasons, will begin north of the equator, and the autumn will set in south of that line, and the six months' day at the south pole will end and the same length of day at the north pole will commence. The day's length—the period between sunrise and sunset—was about nine hours and twenty-seven minutes in the latitude of St. Louis at the winter solstice on December 21. In the same latitude it was nine hours and thirty minutes on January 1, ten hours and sixteen minutes on February 1, and eleven hours and twenty minutes on March 1. The day's length increased one hour and four minutes in February, forty-six minutes in January, and three minutes in the ten days of December succeeding the solstice, a gain of one hour and fifty-three minutes from December 21 to March 1. In more northerly latitudes the gain will be greater; in more southerly, less. The difference in time between now and Christmas will be larger in Chicago than it is in St. Louis, still larger in Quebec, and larger yet in St. Petersburg. It will be smaller in Havana than in Crescent city, and smaller still at the Isthmus of Panama.

Our old acquaintances, Jupiter and Mars, are still with us, but neither seems to be neighborly. The angular distance separating the two orbs has increased rapidly since they were in conjunction near the end of January, before which time the giant planet was east of his warlike brother. Since then they have changed places, Jupiter now being the father westward, and widening his distance from Mars. Jupiter is bright enough still to be seen before the close of the evening twilight, but his dimmer companion can not be discerned until later. Both are west of south when they come into view. Jupiter disappears in the southwest these evenings shortly after 10 o'clock. Mars remains with us half an hour later. March is the last month in which the giant planet will be seen to ad-

vantage this season. By the beginning of April he will be so low in the southwest at sunset that he will lose the greater part of his interest for stargazers. On the 27th of April he sets with the sun and takes up the role of the morning star, which he will retain until near the end of November, when he will once more take his place in the evening sky, where he will divide the honors with Venus, which will then be near the end of her approaching engagement as evening star. Mars stays with us until September, but he has lost the glories which made him a conspicuous object to both the professional and the casual sky gazer last August and September.

An important event in March's astronomical annals is the advent of Saturn as evening star. The planet will attain this distinction two days before the month ends. It is now in fair view in the east about 9 o'clock, and it will appear earlier on each succeeding evening. On March 20 it will raise just as the sun sets, although it will not be high enough to be in full view on that day until half an hour or more later, depending on the obstructions to the prospect toward the east. Saturn will partly compensate us for the loss of Jupiter, which will be felt about that time. The ringed planet will remain with us until October, when it will disappear from the evening sky to become a morning star just as Jupiter whom he succeeds now, is preparing to make his advent again as an evening luminary. Saturn now, after he comes in view, is visible until sunrise and is the only conspicuous planet except Venus, which appears just before sunrise, that will be in the field of vision after 11 o'clock at night.

Mercury ranks as an evening star at the present time, and will continue in the role until the end of March, being in the southwest at sunset, but he will not be far enough away from the sun to the east until the 8th or 10th of March to be readily traced out by the unaided vision. Uranus raises in the southeast about an hour later than Saturn, but like Mercury, he is ordinary a somewhat difficult object to find by the naked eye. Technically Uranus is a morning star, and will remain in that category until, several weeks hence, it raises at sunset. Venus is drawing nearer and nearer to the sun preparatory to her passage to the east side of that luminary, when she will become an evening star. This event occurs early in May. She is a beautiful object as she raises south of east, these mornings a little more than an hour before the sun's appearance. As an evening star she will make her debut the 2d day of May, when she in the west and Saturn in the east will be the leading attractions of the evening sky. Her appearance, in combination with Saturn, will repeat the splendid spectacle of the autumn months of 1892, when Mars in the south and Jupiter in the east divided the honors of the firmament in the early part of the night.

February had no full moon, but March comes near having two of them, but misses this honor by a few hours, the second of them striking the opening day of April early in the morning. There will be some interesting meetings between the moon and planets during March. Several times those orbs approach and pass each other on the celestial highway. On the 20th of March, when the moon is about half way between her new and first quarter stage, she will pass close to Jupiter, both being in the southwest at the time, the moon being a little over a degree north of the planet when they are at their nearest. A day afterward, or on the 21st, Luna pays her devoirs to Mars, approaching within a degree and a half of him on the north. On the last day of March the moon greets Saturn again. This will be the closest approach of the month, the two bodies being just about a degree apart, the moon, as in the earlier conjunction, being south of the planet.

On the clear nights in this part of the year the firmament presents a picture of rare attractiveness. About 9 o'clock in the evenings of the opening days of March the brilliant first magnitude star Capella, of the constellation of Auriga, character, is in the west, and Aldebaran, of the bull in the southwest East and south of Capella are Castor and Polox, of the twins. In the south are Betelguse and Rigel, of Orion, Rigel being nearer the horizon than its companion. Also in the south, but farther to the east than the other two stars, is the peerless Sirius, of the great dog. Higher above the horizon in the same quarter of the sky is Procyon, of the Lesser Dog. Jupiter and Mars, the planets, are west of these four stars, and the planet Saturn is east of them, and is situated south of, but not far from the true easterly point. Higher above the easterly

horizon than Saturn is Regulus, of the Lion, Regulus being the largest of a stream of stars arranged in the form of a sickle. Lower than Saturn is Spica, of the Virgin. Further in the north than Saturn and Spica is Arcturus, of the Bear Keeper. In the northerly part of the sky at that hour the Great Bear and Eipper, is of the Pole Star, and mounting toward the zenith, while Cassiopeia, the Lady in her chair, is on the west side of the Pole Star and sinking toward the horizon.

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PEOPLE AND AFFAIRS.

THE AMERICAN GIRL IN WASHINGTON.
And everywhere is the American girl—the pride of prosperous households holds from the Atlantic to the Pacific; the girl of the period from New York or Philadelphia; the exquisitely tinted Puritan of New England; the Vasar or Wellesley college graduate—determined upon compelling young cavalry officers to bestow upon their valuable opinions as to Browning's place in literature, or the future of the American woman, or the relative merits of women's colleges and men's universities. There are other girls frankly ignorant, impatient of anything that sounds literary or scientific, but who wear the diamonds bestowed upon them by parental affection with a proud consciousness that there is money in the parental bank to buy many more of them. There are simple rural maidens who are redolent of the soil from which they come. All of them are subjected to a certain forcing process in this atmosphere. All of them will feel the ecstasy that fills each true woman's heart when she imagines that she has been a participant in the highest and brightest of social glories; and the echoes of their delight reverberate from one end of the land to the other, for in nearly every town and hamlet there is some exuberant young being who has shared in the festivities of Washington, who has seen her like from all quarters of the Union gathered together under the roofs of great men—the president, of cabinet officers, of law-makers, of foreign ministers. She has met young men of different mould from those who make evening calls on her in her own retired village, or small city, or back street. She has felt that there are powers within her which she never recognized before, and which may be waisted in the dull and spiritless place in which she dwells, and where men and women are engrossed by the sordid and confining cares of business and housekeeping, creating and developing the life of which she has been part. She has associated with all that is great in the national life. She has talked familiarly with strange people from the Orient. She has ventured on a little French an attaché of the legation of the young republic, or perhaps even with the minister himself. She has seen a real Hungarian hussar, and, what is more she has seen the kind of men she knows at home, the leading lawyers, the principal merchants, the respectable, self-respecting Americans, standing on an even footing with all that controls and directs the country. This fact may not be very impressive to her simplicity, but she feels that she has been among the best there is in all humanity, and that if the men whom she controls can hold their own in these surroundings why should not she stand on equal terms with presidents and ministers and senators and judges, and even with their wives and daughters?—From "Washington Society," by Henry Loomis Nelson, in Harper's Magazine for March.

SWALLOWED A CHILD.
BARABOO, Wis., March 1.—A most thrilling incident occurred here this afternoon. A circus, which is wintering here, was putting a lot of pythons and boa constrictors into new quarters. In some way a little Norwegian boy stepped into the cage of a boa constrictor thirty-two feet long. The snake sprang from the cage with distended jaws and gobbled the youngster. The attendants were horrified to descry a fast disappearing pair of legs sticking out through the monster's jaws. The great serpent's eyes were aflame with excitement, and in another second or two the poor little Norwegian boy would have disappeared from view forever. It happened that Henry Ringling, a giant in strength and stature, was present. He is a man of quick impulse, and without counting the cost or foreseeing the danger, he grasped the serpent around the neck and commenced shaking it. With one swipe of its tail it sent Mr. Ringling scurrying heels over head across the floor. At Ringling took in the situation at a glance and grasping a long chain lying on the floor, he passed it around the body at a point about six inches below where he thought the child's head would be. Directing several attendants to grasp either end of the chain and pull with all their strength, he was gratified to notice a relaxation of the snake's effort to swallow the child. Then this chain was made fast. The snake's tail was fastened around post and the whole body drawn to its greatest tension, rendering his majesty inert and powerless. He still continued to gulp but his game was up. Two men inserted a wagon jack between his jaws and by degrees they pried them open and the boy was pulled out. His head and body were covered with a thick saliva of a peculiarly offensive odor. The boy will recover unless blood poisoning sets in. The wounds are about his shoulders.

RESTRICTING GERMAN EMIGRATION.
New York Independent.
The new German emigration bill is intended to prohibit the emigration of men between the ages of 17 and 25, who are liable to military service, and it puts larger power in the hands of the government officers to limit the departure from Germany of those who wish to settle elsewhere. A similar agitation is going on in Denmark and in Scandinavia. Now these are the most desirable of all the classes that come to this country. They are well educated, steady and industrious people. They do not weaken us, they strengthen us. It will be only the most desirable emigrants whom this action will affect, while we may be sure that the less desirable ones will be freely allowed to emigrate. We are among those who have any special fear of injury come to this country by an excess of immigration. We only desire that care be taken to execute the laws which prevent the introduction of paupers and criminals.

DECLINE OF THE WAMP WAIST.
From the New York Ledger.
It is one of the most hopeful signs of the future that the waist of the

average woman is growing much larger. There has been not a little speculation as to the reason, but it would be a much more fertile field of debate, the question why they should not grow larger.

With physical culture, Delsarte tennis and advanced ideas in diet and hygiene the woman of the present day is far ahead of the woman of a half century ago. She is emancipating herself and getting out of all narrowness, physically and mentally. It is not too much to say that with physical improvement, mental gain is sure to follow with great rapidity; and once let the sisterhood that they may grow and advance, improve and take their position in the front rank of the world's workers, and it will take stronger force than tradition, whalebone and buckram to constrain their powers. It has been said and with great show of reason, that women will never be at their best until they have grown out of the constricting bands of fashionable costume. Once freed from such narrow environment, the heart, as well as the head will find room for development.

It's curious fact that most generous-spirited, broad-minded women have fair-sized waists. Those with disproportionately small waists, hands and feet are apt to be narrowminded, parsimonious and uncharitable to a very marked degree. Nature rarely makes mistakes, and other things being equal she is not likely to put No. 7 temperament into No. 3 shoes. No. 5 glove and 19-inch waist measure. If the clay tenement is of the average height of well-developed womanhood the close student of human nature will never be captivated by extreme smallness of the extremities or a cramped-in figure. They are an unerring index and one in which no sensible woman should feel a degree of pride.

Mamma Caught Napping.
"Am I thin or fat, mamma?"
She had already been asking too many questions, but her mother answered her once more.
"Why, dear," she said, "you are not very fat, but you are fat enough for a little girl who is growing."
This reply was certainly diplomatic, but it did not apparently satisfy the child, for a few seconds later she came out with this terrible poser:
"Say, mamma, are there any little girls who are not growing?"—Boston Herald.

Settled In Advance.
Mr. Hunnimune—Now, as we are going to start housekeeping, Ethel, we should begin right. Order, you know, is heaven's first law, and there must be a head to every house, so—
Mrs. Hunnimune—That's all provided for, George. Mother's coming to live with us.—Exchange.

"A Stitch in time saves Nine."
You need a blood purifier. Why not take Gering & Co.'s Compound Extract of Sarsaparilla? It will do you good. If it does not we will refund the money. Gering & Co., druggists.

Notice.
Having sold my stock of jewelry and business to M. S. Briggs and C. H. Jequette, I desire to extend to my patrons my thank's for their past favors and assure them that they will receive the best of treatment from the new firm, and cordially invite them to continue their patronage. I am preparing to handle the largest stock of pianos and organs ever brought to Plattsmouth, and will make my headquarters with the firm of Briggs & Jequette where I may be found of them that diligently seek me to settle their accounts.
Respectfully
GEO. VASS,
Ex-Jewelry and Music Dealer.
Try the "Crown" cough cure. Brown & Barret guarantee it.

THE FLYING YEARS.

As a dream when night is done,
As a shadow flies the sun,
As a slip whose white sails skim
Over the horizon dim,
As a life complete of days
Vanished from mortal ways,
As hope that pales to fear—
Is the flying of the year.

As the first gold shaft of light
Shivers through the wreck of night,
As the thrill and stir that bring
Promises of the budding spring,
As new thoughts of life that rise
Mingled in a sick man's eyes,
As strange joy to hearts forlorn—
So the flying year is born.

Glad or sad, a deftling span
Is the little life of man,
Love and hope and work and tears
Fly before the flying years.
Yet small tremulous hearts grow bold—
All the story is not told—
For around us as a sea
Springs God's great eternity.

—Christian Burke.

A Honeymoon Incident.

A well known local carpenter tells a story that is intended as a good joke on his wife. When they were married, they rented apartments in a block, the rear of which overlooked one of the rivers, and among the wife's earliest culinary efforts was a batch of bread. The young husband sampled his wife's contribution to the world's stock of the "stuff of life," and arising from the table playfully remarked:
"My dear, cast your bread upon the waters."

The wife took offense at the injunction, and as her husband left the house she flung the remaining loaf out of the window into the river. It struck a passing boat, crashing through the bottom and sinking in the water's murky depths. The next she knew the boatman, dripping wet, made a tour of the block, bent on discovering who dumped the hod of brick into his craft.—Binghamton Leader.

A Writer of Stories.

Just a few years ago a sharp nosed, bright eyed young man used to haunt the secondhand book stores of this city. He would buy and eagerly devour all the cheap novels, blood and thunder stories, etc., exposed for sale. One day he astonished an old bookseller whom he found reading an interesting story by informing him that he was the author of it. One day he disappeared, and later it was reported that he was writing for the weekly story papers in New York city.

The other day came the news that he was at the head of a novel publishing company and wrote about 100 continued stories himself yearly for his weekly story papers and library publications. He is said to have an income of about \$50,000 a year. He has concealed his right name, it is declared, and writes under any number of noms de plume.—Cincinnati Times Star.

One Thing Bishop Brooks Did.

On one occasion Bishop Brooks received a letter from a man in New York saying, "Will you please send me a list of all the publications in your diocese?" On receiving it the bishop did not even smile at the absurdity of the request or seemed annoyed that a man should trouble him upon such a simple matter. He accepted it as something to fulfill.
"Do you think you can find what this man wants?" said he to his secretary.
"I guess so," came the reply, and the secretary, who knew the noble hearted bishop so well, spent half the night completing the task.—Boston Globe.

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The total annual loss from insects in the United States is estimated by the best entomological authorities at about \$380,000,000.

The Greeks sometimes buried their dead in the ground, but more generally cremated them, in imitation of the Romans.

The average weight of the Chinese brain is said to be heavier than the average weight of the brain of any other race.

stone Life in Tibet.
A little party finds no place in Tibetan character. It is no uncommon thing for a son to turn his father, when too old to work, out of doors, and to leave him to perish in the cold. The superstition that the souls of the dead can, if they will, haunt the living drives their hardened natures to gain by the exercise of cruelty the promise of the dying that they will not return to earth. As death approaches the dying person is asked, "Will you come back or will you not?" If he replies that he will they pull a leather bag over his head and smother him; if he says he will not, he is allowed to die in peace.

A Dog Holds a Horse.
A gentleman in Cincinnati has a mastiff trained to hold his horse. When he drives up to the sidewalk and alights the dog takes a seat on the curbstone. His master places the end of the hitching strap in his mouth and leaves him in charge. The dog sits like a statue, holding the strap until his master returns.

Crickets as Pets.
A Kenn-bank (Me.) lady has made pets of five field crickets. Each has a name and seems to know it when spoken. They are peculiarly sensitive to music, always chirping while any musical instrument is in use.

Hunt While Hunting.
Thomas C. Yeager, of Danville, Ky., while out hunting was fatally wounded by an accidental discharge from his gun. His dog jumped upon it, striking the trigger, causing the charge to explode.

Moderation in Exercise.
We may well rejoice that the day has vanished when a pale face, dull eyes and a weak chest were the signs of knowledge, but we will do well to guard against the other extremes which retard physical culture as the most important thing in life. The young people who attend our institutions of learning should be encouraged to take plenty of physical exercise. Their inclination toward outdoor games should not be frowned upon, but they should be held to moderation and to such a wise division of their time as will enable them to devote proper attention to their studies.—Altoona Tribune.

The Age of Turtles.
The age of turtles, like the age of some excellent wines, will never be known. In many parts of the country boys cut their initials on the shell of the tortoise, with the date, and then watch for them in later years. At Hatherso, in Pennsylvania, one was found with "L. W., 1833," cut on the shell. Mr. Levi Walton, who cut the lettering, is still living, but the slow going turtle will probably outdo him in the race of life.—Meehan's Monthly.

Irrigation in Colorado.
There are 5,000,000 acres of land in Colorado subject to irrigation, but only two-fifths are under cultivation as yet. About 26,700 acres are in fruit, and 7,900 will be added very soon. Water is conveyed through 12,000 miles of ditches.—Boston Transcript.

How the Umbria Saved a Suit.
In the case of the big Gunarder Umbria, which limped into port under her own steam and her shaft in splints as it were, and which was towed by the Hamburg liner Bohemia for some hours before her cables parted, her owners would have been liable to a salvage suit from the Bohemia for several thousand dollars had she not managed to get in without assistance.—New York Evening Sun.

Helps Their Business.
First Footpad—Wasn't Judge Big-head the man who sent you to the penitentiary?
Second Footpad—Yep.
First Footpad—Then, why are you so glad he's been given another term?
Second Footpad—He alters gives good citizens th' full 'xtent o' th' law w'en they gits caught carryin' concealed weapons.—New York Weekly.

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