

# A MAP OF THE SKIES

## For the Present Month.

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With April the days are growing much longer, and it will be somewhat later in the evening before the firmament will yield to the observer's gaze the wealth of its hidden treasures. However, from 8 to 10 every night, will be the proper time to watch, to seek and to find. During these two hours the skies, on clear nights, will reveal the stars and planets in the arrangement shown in our illustrations, the later hours being chosen during the first week in the month, while the identical panorama will be visible between 8 and 9 in the last two weeks in April.

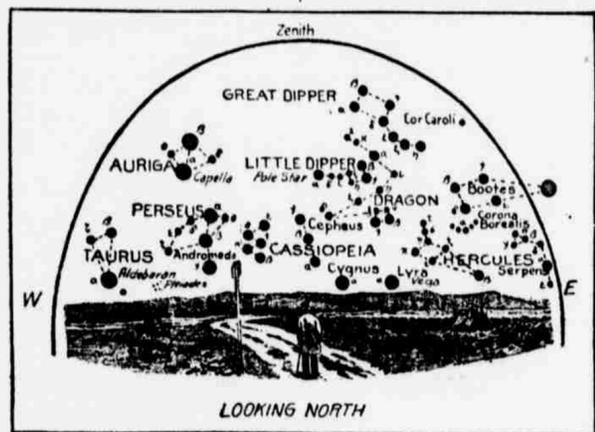
Today I take great pleasure in answering, partially at least, the many queries received from my interested readers and which may be summed up in these few words:

### Are the Stars and Planets Inhabited?

This is a question which has passionately excited the bright intellects of all generations and races; books innumerable have been written on the subject, either in the form of more or less serious scientific essays, or as mere flights of fancy such as the immortal Swift indulged in in his "Gulliver's Travels." Cyrano de Bergerac, whom Rostand, the dramatist, and Coquelin and Mansfield, the actors, have made so suddenly famous over both hemispheres, owed his notoriety, in the seventeenth century, solely to his humorous "Travel to the Moon," wherein he pretends to "visit" with the aborigines and collect information of a semi-satirical character. But let us put aside the fairy-tale writers, and examine, in sober earnest, whether, besides the "Man in the Moon," whose cheery and prosperous face gazes down upon us, on full moon nights, there are reasons to believe that

### Looking Northward.

No star of importance at our zenith; further down, we meet first Merak, then Dubhe of "The Great Dipper." Arcturus (The Pole Star) occupies almost the center of the Northern horizon, the rest of the "Little Dipper" to the right, Kochab, on the shoulder of the "Little Bear" (the other name of Ursa Minor), is close to Thuban of "The Dragon"—4,700 years ago the star gazer's guide to the north; it stands midway between Kochab and Alloth, of the Great Dipper. A little above shines solitary one of the few stars of "Cor Caroli" (The Heart of Charles); another small constellation is here in evidence although our map does not show it. It is "Canes Venatici" (The Hunting Dogs); in that same vicinity notice another remarkably fine nebula, consisting of a bright center surrounded by a hazy ring. Below, along the Eastern direction, behold the square



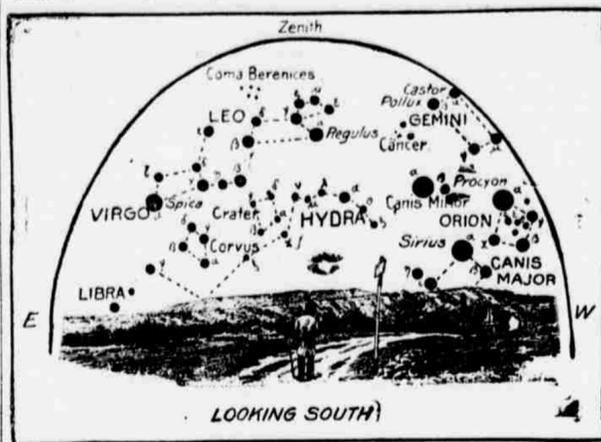
formed by the third magnitude stars Nakkar, Izar, etc., of "Bootes" (the Herdsman), whose gem, Arcturus, is out of our horizon this month. Underneath, "Corona Borealis" (the Northern Crown) in the shape of a circle, is adorned with "Margarita" (The Pearl), a star of the second magnitude; it was said to be the crown of Ariadne, placed there by Bacchus, the god of the good fellows, whose priestess she became after Theseus had so shamefully deserted her. Below, "Hercules" (the Kneeler), with its third magnitude star Korneforos, leads us to Unkalal, of "Serpens" (the Serpent) close to the Eastern horizon. Following the line of the hills westward, we meet the two first magnitude stars, Vega of "Lyra" (the Lyre) and Arided of "Cygnus" (the Swan), the latter is, as we all see, the gem of this splendid cross. Gradually lifting our gaze upward we meet in a vertical row Alderamin, Alphirk and Berrai, of "Cepheus," and, to its left, the five stars of "Cassiopeia" (The Seated Lady), ranged 3 and 2 in M shape. More westward still, down to the horizon, shines the second magnitude Almach of "Andromeda" (the Chained Lady), all we see of this constellation. Above, "Perseus" (the Champion), shines in all the beauty of Algor and Mirak. "Auriga" (the Waggoner), bestows upon us the splendor of the first magnitude "Capella" (the She-Goat) with her Kids, and Menkalinan, a superb second, The V shaped "Taurus" (the Bull) appears to the extreme West with Aldebaran, shedding upon us its ruddy light at the base of this fine triangle. The "Pleiades" shine to the right of Taurus, close to the horizon.

We have finished our first inspec-

tion; now let us turn about face and begin

### Looking Southward.

The Zenith is bare of interesting revelations. The first object of some importance we meet with is "Coma Berenices" (Queen Berenice's Hair), a few 4th and 5th magnitude stars arranged pyramid-wise. Underneath, the stately Zodiacal asterism "Leo" (the Lion) forms two trapezes, one above the other, with first magnitude Regulus at the base of the first one Deneb Aleet, Algiba and Zosma showing up in the order I have just named them. Another admirable zodiacal constellation, "Virgo" (the Virgin), is seen here at its best; early in March but few of its beauties were in sight; this month, not only Spica (the Ear of Wheat) of the first magnitude shines magnificently, but also



Zavijava (third magnitude) at the other lower corner of the trapeze, with Vindemiatrix continuing the line. Below Virgo, we behold two new acquaintances; first "Corvus" (the Crow) with its four principal stars in perfect quadrilateral order, Alchiba and Algorea at the base, both luminaries of the third magnitude; and enclosed, so to speak, within one of the folds of "Hydra" (the Sea Serpent) which climbs up in fanciful designs to the middle of the sky in front of us; the square of "Crater" (the Cup) is clearly outlined close to another fold of the reptile. To the left of Corvus, shine brightly the two scales of "Libra" (the Balance), a zodiacal constellation whose leaders (of the second magnitude) are called Zuben-El-Genubi and Zuben-El-Chamali. Greek mythology claimed that Themis, the Goddess of Justice, despairing of ever teaching honesty and fair play to

thing in common with women on this side of the earth, and, while quite young, begin to think about their future husbands and to hope and look for their coming. She must wait for her husband, and can in no wise seek him. There is where the mission schools come to her aid. They help her to a husband. While the teachers of these schools are teaching the girls, they do not neglect to be on a constant watch to find good husbands for them, and in a proper manner approach the parents of both parties on the question of the marriage of their children, and in no inconsiderable number of cases succeed in making really desirable matches, which are not regretted by either the men or the women.—New York Herald.

### MAN EATS 600 TACKS.

He Also Chews Aluminum and Swallows Yardsticks. Hugh Gloucester of Philadelphia,

who bites steel nails in half as if they were lumps of cheese, who eats tacks with the ease of an invalid disposing of an egg flop, who swallows yardsticks and chews aluminum, almost reached the limit yesterday by driving a needle into his chest with a hammer, says the Chicago Journal. The last-mentioned feat came near resulting in the undoing of Hugh Gloucester. He is in the Hahnemann hospital, where by a most delicate operation two physicians removed the needle. Blood-poisoning may result and cause the man's death, but at present Gloucester suffers no inconvenience from the injury. Had the needle penetrated an eighth of an inch higher the physicians declare the man would have been killed almost instantly. The needle would have entered his heart. As the physicians began cutting away the flesh to extract the needle, which had broken off, the patient remarked when asked if it hurt: "It is nothing, gentlemen, cut away at your pleasure. This was a piece of foolishness on my part. A man bet me \$3 that I couldn't drive this needle into me and live. In a moment of recklessness I accepted the wager. Pull me through if you can." The operation over, Gloucester reached for a three-foot rule lying nearby, and in a twinkling it had almost disappeared down his throat. He pulled it out and asked for nails. The nails were provided, and he bit several in half. He then swallowed half a dozen tacks, and afterwards taking a piece of aluminum from his pocket chewed it as if it were gum. He declared that since last Friday he had swallowed 600 tacks.

### Author of "Quo Vadis"

Did you hear that delightful story of Sienkiewicz, the great Polish author? He is a great deal talked about just now in Paris, which—with all its skepticism—has devoured his "Quo Vadis" with eagerness and delight. They are giving a great series of festivities in his honor in Warsaw—taking advantage of the fact that it is twenty-five years since he began writing, and making, as it were, a silver wedding of his quarter of a century union with letters. His fame has spread to Russia, and it is even said that the czar has his books translated for him for a certain time every evening, so entrancing does he find the Pole's reconstruction of the stirring dramas of early Russian and Polish history. The Academy of Letters at St. Petersburg may have been encouraged by these facts to send Sienkiewicz a letter of warm congratulation. Now, Sienkiewicz is an ardent Polish patriot as well as an artist, and he was placed in something of a difficulty by the receipt of this letter, for it was written in Russian, and the imposition of Russian on the Poles to the exclusion of their own language is one of the things which the Polish patriot, of all classes, most profoundly resents. Sienkiewicz had to reply. To have replied in Russian would have been treason to Poland; to have replied in Polish would have been treason to Russia. He solved the difficulty by sending back his answer in Latin!—London Mainly About People.

### Answer Squelched the Lawyer.

A prominent Washington member of the legal fraternity recently asked Minister Wu Ting Fang as to the status of lawyers in China. The oriental answered quietly: "Lawyers are prohibited in my country." When the Washington man fully realized the significance of Wu Ting Fang's remark he hastened to change the subject.

### WORK AT DIZZY HEIGHTS.

Cleaning Windows on New York's High Buildings Done by Contract.

It would be impossible to calculate the number of windows in New York, although in France, where there is a window tax, the authorities keep track of all these details, says the New York Evening Post. The important fact, from an industrial point of view, about these windows is that they must be cleaned, and consequently a number of companies have been organized to take the trouble of cleaning them off the hands of the owners. The men who are sent out to do this work must not only learn how to clean windows but must also accustom themselves to working at a great height from the ground, with an ever-present possibility of falling. In most office buildings, particularly the new ones, a safety apparatus is used to protect these men. This consists of a belt worn around the waist, with a loop at the back through which a rope passes. This rope is provided with an iron hook at each end which fits into a fastening screwed on the outside of the window frame. This arrangement allows the man to move along the window sill freely, and yet is an absolute safeguard if he slips. After the men have learned how to clean a window they are started in first on the ground floor windows of shops; then they try the windows of private houses, and, finally, when they are fully at home in their work, they are sent to the high buildings. The new men are generally sent out in gangs of four or five under a competent foreman, who sees that they take no unnecessary risks. Occasionally it happens that a man finds he cannot stand working at a height, and he has to give up the work altogether. Special ladders are used in cleaning the big plate glass windows in stores, ladders with rubber padding on the ends of the uprights. It seems to the passer-by as if the pressure of these ladders with a man's weight on them would be great enough to send them crashing through a plate glass window, but such an accident, said the head of a window cleaning company, has never been known. A workman will clean anywhere from five to twenty-five windows a day.

### BOLD PIECE OF SURGERY.

An Asphyxiated Man's Heart Squeezed to Restore Circulation.

A remarkable story is told in a Danish medical periodical relative to the treatment of a patient who had become asphyxiated from the administration of chloroform. The operating surgeon was a certain Dr. Maag, but the method which he employed had previously been suggested by Dr. Prus of Lemberg. A laborer, 27 years old, who had suffered from sciatica, was to be operated upon to relieve that trouble. Chloroform was given and the operation begun. The patient struggled, however, and when the process of anaesthesia was carried further he stopped breathing. Several expedients were resorted to in order to restore respiration, but in vain. And there was no longer any pulse. In this emergency Dr. Maag opened the chest, detached portions of the third and fourth ribs two and a half inches long and turned them back with the flap of flesh. Through the opening thus made he thrust his hand. The heart was firmly grasped and compressed rhythmically. After a few squeezes the organ began to beat naturally. It was necessary to employ compression again at times, and also to inflate the lungs artificially. But by these means the patient was kept alive for eleven hours and a half, and Dr. Maag is inclined to believe that the man would have recovered were it not that one of the pleura was accidentally punctured.—Chicago Chronicle.

### Surgery by Telephone.

Surgery performed by directions given over the telephone is the latest innovation at the Hahnemann hospital. A physician who is connected with its surgical staff was called up by telephone the other day by a nurse at the children's hospital in Germantown, with which institution the physician is also connected, and was told that his services were immediately required for a child who had dislocated its shoulder. "Bring the child right up to the telephone," said the surgeon. "All right, I have the child in my arms," the nurse replied. "Now, then," said the physician, "place the child's elbow against its side and move its hand and forearm outward. His directions were here interrupted by a sharp click that sounded through the telephone as the dislocated member snapped back into place. "There you are—nicely done, wasn't it?" said the surgeon to the nurse. She replied that the operation had been most successful, and the physician returned to his clinic.—Philadelphia Record.

### American Firms in London.

The great increase in the number of American houses in London, either holding their own offices or being represented, is becoming noticeable. One can hardly pass through any leading building in the city without meeting with the names of American competitors. The iron and steel trades lead the way; machinery makers by the score are to be found; hardware and fancy goods men are much in evidence; boot and shoe shops abound, while patent medicine manufacturers are extremely numerous. In fact, it would be difficult to pick out any leading American industry which is not well represented in London.

Probably there is nothing so uncertain as a sure thing.

### EMBASSY PROPERTY.

FOREIGN SOIL IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

France to Require New Grounds at the Capital—Flags of Other Nations Float Over the Little Patches of Foreign Terra Firma.

Several foreign governments, among them France, are negotiating for the purchase of embassy land in Washington. As soon as such negotiations are completed, the annexed property becomes foreign soil. France's new holding, for instance, will be exempt from taxation. The French flag will float over it. If one Frenchman chooses to murder another within its bounds it will be none of Uncle Sam's business. The quarters of the present French embassy are intimately associated with the life of Washington. The mansion was built just seventy-five years ago by Richard Rush, statesman and diplomatist. The year before its foundations began to rise Rush had been recalled from the ministry to Great Britain to be secretary of the treasury under John Quincy Adams. In the 40s Rush vacated the house upon his appointment by President Polk as minister to France. Shortly afterward Hamilton Fish, then in congress, moved in and remained until retiring from the senate in 1857. Fish added a large ball room to the right of the house proper. The year Fish retired Queen Victoria leased the house as her American legation and Lord Napier, arriving shortly after Buchanan's inauguration, took possession as British minister. There were no foreign ambassadors here in those days. His lordship was a dashing young noble of only 38. He was accompanied by Lady Napier, four children, a tutor, a governess, a pompous butler, a coachman and two maid servants. Her ladyship was regarded at the time as the most beautiful woman in Washington. During their three years in the Rush house it was the scene of the most brilliant functions given at the capital. In this house King Edward of England was entertained when Lord Lyons was ambassador. In 1865 Lord Lyons was succeeded by Sir Frederick Bruce, who became a warm friend of Charles Sumner. He remained master of the Rush house until he died of diphtheria in Boston, during Grant's administration. He was succeeded by Sir Edward Thornton, who built the present British embassy. Soon after Bruce's death Admiral Porter, succeeding Farragut as commanding officer of the navy, purchased the stately old mansion and there remained until his death. In 1894, when M. Jules Patenotre, former French ambassador, married Miss Elverson of Philadelphia, France first leased the property for an embassy. When France acquires the land now being negotiated for it will be the seventh patch of foreign soil within the bounds of Washington. Great Britain was the first purchaser of embassy grounds, and then followed Germany, Japan, Mexico, Korea and Austria. The fifteen other foreign governments represented in Washington rent their embassies or legations.

### Preacher Handy with Scythe.

It is told of the late Dr. Elijah Kellogg, author of "Spartacus," that one Sunday morning before his sermon he announced from the pulpit: "The Widow Jones' grass is getting pretty long. I shall be there with my scythe, rake, and pitchfork at 4 o'clock tomorrow morning, and I hope every male member of the congregation will be there, too." The next morning they were all there, among them Captain Griggs, six feet two in his stockings, with a weight of nearly 250 pounds. "Parson," said the Captain, as they were working up the field near each other, "I'm goin' to cut your corners this mornin'." Dr. Kellogg was a small man, weighing scarcely more than 130, but he knew how to handle a scythe, and, as he told it afterward, with a little snrug of his shoulders, "he didn't cut my corners that morning." More than that, the man who thought he could beat the parson at mowing dropped under a tree exhausted from working with such a pacemaker.

### To Protect 'L' Stations from Robbers.

To capture the burglars who have been robbing the stations, the South Side Alley Electric Elevated road in Chicago has devised a scheme which might be copied by the Brooklyn elevated roads, whose stations, many of them guarded only by women, have been held up repeatedly. An electric button is placed on a level with the high seat which the Chicago station agent occupies, and a lower connection is made so that, hand or foot, by a slight movement can ring a gong on the platform which can be heard a mile. But the pushing of the button does other things. It rings similar gongs in every station, summons private detectives and is calculated to make impossible the escape of fleeing burglars.—New York Press.

### Disturbances on the Sun.

The sun's surface is known to be subject to greatly increased disturbance every eleven years, known as the sunspot period. Auroral displays and disturbances of the earth's magnetism have a similar period, and the pictures of the corona which have been obtained show markedly characteristic varieties of form dependent also upon the sunspot period. So one of the principal efforts of scientists of late years has been to obtain pictures of the corona with a much detail as possible.

### SUCCESSFUL WOMEN.

Industrious California Sculptress Who Wears Duck Trousers at Her Work.

Miss Sibyl Easterday of San Francisco deserves the laurels she gracefully and modestly wears as a sculptress. On the top floor of an old five-story building she has her studio. There from sunrise to sunset she works. The little studio is her world, and the figures her fingers have molded into form are her companions. If she cares particularly for any other companionship she has never shown it. Occasionally she dons the garb of woman and goes up the street, but in her workshop she wears a light flannel shirt, duck trousers and low-cut shoes. On a farm near Niles in Alameda county this girl was born. She was a strange child and seemed to take particular delight in playing in the mud. But she did not make mud pies as did other children. Out of the mud with which she played she fashioned all sorts of queer figures resembling the animals and the persons about the farm. In the days when there was no mud she played indoors, and her mother often was horrified to find the little girl had delved into the butter tub to mold the butter into shapes of horses or cows, or boys and girls. Later the child began to carve figures out of wood, and as she grew older she developed a decided ability in painting and drawing. When the first barrel of plaster for casts was brought into her studio and the white powder left a trail along the floor, when her tub of wet clay upset and spoiled her skirt; Miss Easterday determined upon a radical departure that caused a great deal of comment at the time. The next day, when the baker boy knocked at the studio, the door was opened by a young person in duck trousers, flannel shirt, and with long, fluffy, red-brown hair. This young person had a sculptor's knife and a wad of clay in one hand, and the other was held out for the loaf of bread. The baker's boy gasped, but the serious, earnest blue eyes of the girl showed no evidence of uneasiness.

### GRAVITATE TO THE CITIES.

The Population in Germany Is Tending Toward the Large Towns.

Figures of the last census of Germany reveal some very significant facts relative to the great industrial and agricultural contest that is now being waged in the empire. The census was taken on Dec. 1, 1900. The growth of the cities, the industrial centers, during the preceding five years has been unprecedented in the history of the empire. Of the thirty-three cities with a population of over 100,000, every one but Crefeld shows a great increase. Among the cities which show the largest increase is Berlin, which has added over 207,000, or 12.3 per cent, to the number of her inhabitants, making her present population 1,844,345, not including the suburban cities. Including her suburbs, Berlin numbers 2,500,000. The city that has increased most rapidly is Nuremberg, which in five years has added 93,357, or 60 per cent, in a total population of 260,743. This is due largely to the situation of Nuremberg at the point of junction of many highways and of seven railroads. The city of Posen has increased by 42,912 since 1895, largely by the influx of farmers and agricultural people from the country, more especially from Prussia. Stettin now numbers 209,988 souls, an increase in population of 69,264, owing to its position as the seaport of Berlin. Hamburg has added 79,117, making a population of 704,089; Munich, 87,502, making a total of 498,503. Leipzig has gained 55,126 in a present population of 455,120, Dresden, 59,909 in 305,349, and Frankfurt has increased 58,534, making her population 287,813.

### A Story of a Finger Bowl.

The stories that have for their theme the use of finger bowls as drinking glasses are legion. So numerous are they, indeed, that one would think nobody remained in the land so benighted as not to understand the use of these vessels, but there is at least one man who does not. He was at a hotel the other night, and was evidently a brand-new bridegroom from the rural parts, says the Baltimore News. His bride was with him, and both were shy and clothed in garments that were so painfully new they seemed to crack when either wearer moved an arm or a foot. Not one word did the couple say during the meal, and only the elegant prominence of the little fingers of both as they held their knives and forks made their table manners conspicuous until the finger bowls were brought on. Then the groom took up a tablespoon and, to the unending amazement of the interested spectators, began with it slowly to sip the water from the bowl. "Go ahead, Mandy," he said, encouragingly to his wife. "I don't believe I care for none, Seth," she replied, in a whisper, and so he finished this highly seasoned course alone.

### Uganda Taxes Paid in Animals.

One of the finest places in the world for the collection of a menagerie is Port Alice, the British government headquarters in Uganda. The taxes on the natives of this protectorate amount to \$300,000 a year and the generous protectors allow the taxes to be paid in kind. So it happens in Port Alice is assembled just now five elephants, a zebra, twenty chimpanzees and many other monkeys, several wart hogs, water antelopes, snakes and cranes.—New York Press.

The latest fashionable fad is not to have a fad.