

Morning and Evening Stars.

VENUS will be Morning Star until September 25, when it is in superior conjunction with the Sun, being then rendered invisible by the superior light of the Sun; and being also at its maximum distance from the Earth, it will have its minimum apparent diameter, and its disc, if visible, will be a perfect circle. After this date it will soon appear low in the west soon after sunset, being Evening Star, and daily appearing further east of the Sun. At the close of the year 1866 it shows beautifully as a Morning Star, increasing in splendor until January 17, when its illuminated disc is greatest. It rises then about 4h. 23m. mo. On February 24 it reaches its greatest elongation— $46^{\circ} 48'$ —west of the Sun, whence it moves off towards the Sun and superior conjunction, with daily decreasing light. On January 1, it will be north-east of Antares; on February 5, it enters Sagittarius; March 8 it will be 3° south of Capricorni; and April 4 it will be 9° south of Aquarii, the brightest star in the Urn.

MARS will be Evening Star during the entire year. It will appear largest January 10, being then at its opposition, or 180° from the Sun, and rising about sunset. It is then nearest the Earth, and its diameter about four times as large as when at its conjunction. On January 1, it will be south-east of Pollux, and about on a line with Castor and Pollux. It moves backwards or to the west now, and until February 18. On January 7, it will be $2\frac{1}{2}$ south of Pollux, and on April 7 it will be back again due south of Pollux. After June the planet will be rather inconspicuous.

JUPITER will be Evening Star until February 8, being then in conjunction with the Sun, and lost in its light. Thence Morning Star until May 27, when it reaches its western quadrature. During the rest of the year it will be Evening Star, and rather interesting. August 26, it will be largest and at the opposition, rising about sunset, and will appear three times as large as Mars did on January 10. On December 9 it will be 10° due south of the brightest star in the Urn.

SATURN will be Morning Star until February 12, rising after this before midnight, and being Evening Star until November 19, when it becomes Morning Star. It will be in Libra most of the year, north-west of Antares, and at the time of opposition, May 12, it will be brightest.

MERCURY will be brightest, and at the most favorable stations for visibility, March 6, July 3, and October 28, being then in the west, and Evening Star soon after sunset; also April 25, August 24, and December 12, being then in the east as Morning Star, just before sunrise.

CAPERNAUM. — Archaeological searches in Palestine have nearly settled the site of ancient Capernaum upon the present Tel Hum. The "White Synagogue" has been dug out, and there is little doubt that this is the identical edifice built by the Roman centurion, Luke 7, and one of the structures in which Christ prayed and taught—the only one now to be traced. Its plan and ornaments have been made out and copied.

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