four at this hour is only possible for us during April, and the middle of the month is the best time for it. Go out on the first clear evening and have a look at them.

If it is about the middle of April, and if the hour is about nine, you will find Sirius above the south-west horizon. You can't possibly mistake him. None of the brighter planets are allowed to wander in his neighborhood, and no star near him — or anywhere else, for that matter — can at all approach him in brilliancy or in the splendor of his flashing, as he

"Alters hue
And bickers into red and emerald."

The nearer he gets to the horizon the lovelier are the color effects which his twinkling and sparkling present to the eye, and if a glass is used they become still more lovely. Before he gets too low, note how he lies with respect to the three stars in Orion's belt, and then when you find him rising above your horizon again in the fall evenings you will readily know who he is.

Now turn round to the north-east and look at Vega. At our chosen hour she is just about as far from the horizon as Sirius is, and looks in every way much like a smaller copy of the grand southern star. Not such sparkle and play of color, but the general color is the same — white, with a dash of blue. And the spectroscope tells us they are as much alike as they look, being the two chief members of a class of stars that differ very much from our sun. Those that resemble the sun in appearance and physical constitution are called Solar stars; the white ones like Sirius and Vega are called Sirian stars. It would spin this article out too long to enter upon the different characteristics of these two classes and to tell how the New Astronomy of the spectroscope and the camera and the laboratory has discovered these characteristics, but the subject will keep and may be taken up some other time.

Sirius will pass from the evening sky in a few weeks, but Vega will be found there until the close of the year. Not always where you now see her, however, and so you had better learn how to distinguish her in whatever part of the sky she may happen to be. Note the two small stars near her and how they form with her an equilateral triangle. Get your eye familiarized with the group and you will ever after recognize it, whether low in the north-east or up near the zenith or curving down to the north-west horizon. Put your glass on the two small ones and see what it tells you about them. Even at the present low altitude it will easily double one of them. When higher up try if it can't double the other also.

To find Arcturus and Capella all you have to do is to look for the two brightest of the yellowish or reddish stars. Arcturus is well up in the east, and Capella in the north-west. Just at present (9 p. m. mid-April, 1895,) there are brighter objects in the west and north-west than Capella, but they are not stars and they are not red or yellow (except when very near the horizon) and they are lower down than Capella. On the east side of the meridian there is nothing that can be mistaken for Arcturus at this hour, unless you look too low and too far south. But, to be quite sure, and to have a convenient sign-post for him at all times, note how he is situated with respect to the Bear's tail. If you don't know the Bear's tail, take the handle of the Dipper, and that will do as well.

Capella and Arcturus belong to the solar class of stars, and Capella is the one of them all, so far examined, which most closely resembles the sun. This is only one of many interesting discoveries that have been made about these stars, but there is no room here to say anything more about them at present.

A. CAMERON.

Yarmouth, N. S., April, 1895.

For the REVIEW.]

Promotion of Pupils.

In an article in the February REVIEW, on the "Promotion of Pupils," the writer says: "The pupils not graded go on with their studies from their present standing and are not required a second time to go over work which has already been fairly well done, simply because it has not been found convenient to advance them to another grade or class." If the work has been "fairly well done," why should it not be found convenient to advance them? Shall the teacher in whose room these pupils remain be required to take up the work of the higher grade having thus the same work carried on in two departments? It seems to me that the above sentence requires a little further explanation, notwithstanding the assurance that "this plan has been thoroughly tested and found to be a great gain intellectually and morally."

B. D. B.

Gloucester County, N. B.

"Truth" relates this bright little school-room story: A little girl who was just beginning to spell was asked by her teacher to spell "bee," which she did, enunciating the letters very distinctly. Her teacher corrected her, saying: "Jane, when you come to two letters just alike, as 'ee' in bee, pronounce them 'double-e,' not separately." A few days later she was called upon to read a line in the first reader which ran as follows: "Up, up, Mary, the sun is high." Mistress Jane studied over it a minute and then, partly remembering the rule that her teacher had given her, read: "Double up, Mary, the sun is high."