

of this observation at, or about, the 21st of March, and again at the 22nd of September. At these times you not only look at a point of the equinoctial, but at a point of the ecliptic, for at these dates the two circles cut each other. and in the interval the ecliptic or circle in the heavens which the Sun describes in his annual progress, passes north of the equinoctial, while from September to March the Sun's path is south of the equinoctial. Now, it will be evident on a moment's thought that since the stars cannot be seen while the Sun is in the sky, we need not hope to see the point of intersection of ecliptic and equinoctial, (except by looking at the Sun himself,) while the Sun is at that node. But, if we will look at our meridian as already described at midnight on the 21st March, we shall see there the place which the Sun will occupy on the 22nd of the following September; and if we choose that date in September for a similar observation, we shall see the so-called, *Vernal* equinox; and although no bright stars are situated at the region in question, a little careful scrutiny will enable us to fix in our memory a pretty numerous group of small stars—the constellation *Pisces*. Had the observation been made in March, we should have found a very brilliant star (Spica) in the constellation Virgo then in the meridian. This constellation marks the position of the Autumnal equinox, and the position of the Sun in September, from which date until March following, his path is south of the celestial equator.

Astronomers have marked off in twelve groups the stars lying along the Sun's path, and within a zone extending about 8 degrees on each side of the line of his motion. These so called zodiacal constellations are for the most part very easy of identification but I can scarcely recommend the two which mark the Equinoctial points as the first which should be located, although as I have already remarked, they possess a very special interest to the astronomer. They happen to be less well defined by brilliant stars than most of the others; and at this time of the year Taurus, Gemini and Leo are no doubt the most readily fixed in the memory. The small groups Pleiades and Hyades in Taurus can never be forgotten by any one who has once recognized them. While Aldebaran is a large red star forming one extremity of the V group known as Hyades. Leo is well marked by a sickle, in the handle of