

stranger to be told that his lagging behind as a time-keeper was due (not wholly but very largely) to his pushing ahead as a star-wanderer. It is so all the same, and why it is so is not a difficult matter to think out when once you get a good grip on the facts involved. The Sun is now pushing eastwards at a more moderate rate and the other cause of his losing time is also moderating its force. After February 11th he will begin to gain time and in the next three months will gain over eighteen minutes.

And so we see that for a watch to keep time with the Sun, from November to May, it must manage to lose thirty minutes during the first three months and gain eighteen minutes during the next three. Then it must lose ten minutes between the middle of May and the end of July, and gain twenty-three minutes between the end of July and the beginning of November. And all this irregular see-sawing must be regularly repeated every year. We are told that miracles are not impossible, and therefore there may be such watches, but "A hae ma doots."

Of course it may be said that the Sun's time-keeping is regular and that it is our mean or standard time-keeping that is irregular. This brings up a very important and very interesting question, but it is too large a question to be disposed of in a paragraph of notes.

The Star of Bethlehem is to appear again this year. At least, so say some of the newspapers, giving a telegram from Vienna as their authority.

There are several Stars of Bethlehem.

First there is the brilliant object which late in 1887 and early in 1888 was seen in the east in the early morning shining with such surpassing splendor as to be visible to the naked eye even after sunrise. At least, so said many honest and intelligent people who claimed to have seen it with their own eyes. They knew it was the Star of Bethlehem because they saw it "in the east," and because the newspapers had been telling them for months before that this star was to appear. At the end of the present year and during the first two months of next year there will be seen in the southeast in the morning a star of surpassing splendor, and this will be the very same star which caused such a sensation in the fall of 1887. If any one chooses to call it the Star of Bethlehem and finds that he derives any spiritual or other comfort from so lying about it, perhaps it will be as well to leave him alone.

Then there is the Star of Tycho Brahe, the great New star of 1572 which flashed out brighter than Venus for a time and then faded away again. This is the star which the newspapers of three years ago

called the Star of Bethlehem and said was to re-appear in the autumn or fall of 1887. It did not appear in 1887, or in 1888, or in 1889. Perhaps it will appear this year. Perhaps it will not. I wish it would; I would like to see it.

Thirdly, there is the real Star of Bethlehem, mentioned in the second chapter of Matthew. I don't know that this star is not going to appear this year, but, even if it does, I don't just see how we are going to prove that it is really itself.

It is the second of these whose re-appearance is predicted for this year in the telegram from Vienna. I don't know how the newspapers know that Tycho's Star is the Star of Bethlehem. And I don't know how they know that either of these stars re-appears at regular intervals - as Mira does for instance. These things may be true, but it seems strange that the astronomers should know nothing about them. In fact, so far as my knowledge goes, the astronomers say these things are not true - at least are not known to be true. Still there may be something in the telegram. Tycho determined the position of his star as accurately as he could with the instruments he had. There are several small telescopic stars near the given position, any one of which may be Tycho's. One of these may have recently shown signs of brightening up. This much of solid bottom the Star of Bethlehem story may have.

Several of the Asteroids are in good position for observation now and will be for the next few months. If I knew that any of my readers had taken the trouble to find and follow Neptune from the directions given in December's Notes, I would this month give similar directions for Vesta, and in April for Pallas, Ceres and Juno. But it costs some little time and trouble to draw up such directions, and I don't care to give even this little to the work unless I was sure that somebody would be benefitted by it. If any one wants this sort of thing it can be had for the asking.

The "C" which has appeared under these articles was first put there by the editors. I continued it. But it seems there's another "C" who sometimes writes for the REVIEW. To prevent mistakes I shall hereafter place under my contributions

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Yarmouth N.S.

We noted some time ago that the Halifax Academy adopted the Roman or phonetic pronunciation of Latin. Acadia College has adopted this pronunciation, we are informed; and the far-famed Horton Academy, under the principalship of Mr. Oakes, is about to follow in the same line.