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THE DOG STAR.

Curious Facis about Sirius and his Attendant Worlds.

Richarl A. Proctor in Youth's Companion. can be seen to the right of the glorious and million of miles from him. Later Orion, but lower down, which shines the French astronomer, Goldschmidt, more splendidly than any other star in the heavens—though not quite equal in to have detected five other companion the heavens—though not quite equal in brightness to either of the two planets, Jupiter and Venus. It is Sirius, the dog star, and has in all ages excited the admiration of all observers. It is supposed by some that this splendid star has changed in color during the past two thousand years, for ancient Greek and Roman writers spoke of it as a red star, and Seneca even said that Sirius was ruddier than Mars! But most probably the red light referred to by those older writers was simply the occasional flashing of red light from the star which you can see whenever Sirius is close to the horizon, when, as Tennyson writes: horizon, when, as Tennyson writes:

"The fiery Sirus alters hue And bickers into red and emerald."

When you have learned what Sirius really is, you will see how unlikely it is that he can have changed color within two thousand years—a period which seems long to us, but is really nothing in

the life-time of a star.

But what is Sirius? Does the teles-But what is Sirius? Does the telescope, which seems to bring far objects near, tell us anything about him, as it does about Jupiter, Saturn and the other planets? The telescope scarcely tells us anything. The largest yet made by man only shows Sirius as a very bright star. Sir William Herschel tells us that when his great telescope, with its four-foot anirror, was turned toward Sirius the approach of the star toward the field of view reminded him of the approach of day-break. But when the approach of day-break. But when the star was fully in view it showed no globe like that of the sun. It was still a mere star, though, of course, very much brighter than any star in the sky. And it is pretty certain that men will never be able to make a telescope which will show the real body of this splendid

Yet, for all this, we know quite well what Sirius is. He is a sun like ours, only very much larger. He lies about eight hundred thousand times farther from us than the sun; and we know that if the sun were set eight hundred times farther away than he, he would only look like a star, and not a very bright star either. In fact, he would only just be fairly visible on a dark and clear night. He would be very faint indeed compared with Sirius, shining only with about one two-hundredth part of that star's light. Now, this does not exactly tell us how large Sirius is, because his great brightness may be partly due to the greater splendor of his surface. A square inch of iron at a white heat gives out much more light than a square inch of iron at a red heat, and yet it is not larger. So it may be that, though the surface of Sirius gives out so much more light than the surface of the sun, it may it to him. That reminds him that his

yet not be much larger.
Still it seems reasonable to suppose that a sun which is so much more re-splendent than our own has a much greater surface. I do not think we shall be very far wrong if we suppose that the surface of Sirius is not more than twice as lustrous as our own sun. Now, in order that you may see how large Sirius is compared with the great earth on which we live, I may mention that the planet Jupiter is the giant of the solar system, exceeding our earth in size even more, but not much more, than the sun exceeds Jupiter. Suppose that Jupiter is represented by a ball one inch in diameter, then the earth on which we live meter, then the earth on which we live would be represented by a ball rather less than a tenth of an inch in diameter, the sun by a ball some ten inches in diameter, and Sirius by a globe nearly three moter, and Sirius by a globe nearly three and one half yards in diameter, according to Sir John Herschel's estimated to show that the words were used at a fined. All work guaranteed. Mr. D. Runciman is the only man authorized to collect payments and give receipts on beginning to Sir John Herschel's estimated to show that the words were used at a fined. All work guaranteed. Mr. D. Runciman is the only man authorized to collect payments and give receipts on beginning to Sir John Herschel's estimated to show that the words were used at a function of the state of the late firm of Runciman & Co., and publish a correction of any misstate the words were used at a function of the state of the late firm of Runciman & Co., and publish a correction of any misstate the words were used at a function of the state of the late firm of Runciman & Co., and publish a correction of any misstate the words were used at a function of the state of the late firm of Runciman & Co., and publish a correction of any misstate the words were used at a function of the state of the late firm of Runciman & Co., and publish a correction of any misstate the words were used at a function of the late firm of Runciman & Co., and publish a correction of any misstate the words were used at a function of the late firm of Runciman & Co., and the correction of the late firm of Runciman & Co., and the correction of the late firm of Runciman & Co., and the correction of the correction of the late firm of Runciman & Co., and the correction of th

There is yet another way of forming an idea of the vast size of that globe, which yet, owing to its enormous distance, looks like a bright point in our skies. The moon travels at a distance from the earth of nearly 240,000 miles. Now the diameter of the sun is about 840,000 miles; so that if the earth were set at the centre of the sun and the moon traveled at its present distance from her, the whole of the moon's orbit would lie far within the globe of the

It may seem surprising, but yet it is true, that although astronomers have not been able to see, still less to measure, the globe of Sirius, they have yet learned what it is made of—at any rate they know some of its materials. For instance they know quite certainly that there is iron in it (in the form of gas), and sodium and magnesium, and here and sodium and magnesium, and here and there enormous quantities of the gas called hydrogen. How this has been learned I could not very-well explain here. I shall only say that the study of the light given out by this glowing orb is cut off by certain vapor—much as part of the sun's light is cut off by vapor in our air when the sun is rising or setting; and just as the ruddy color of the sun at that time shows him to be shining through the vapor of water in the air, so do certain peculiarities in the light of Sirius show that the light has passed through the vapor of iron, sodium, magnesium and hydrogen.

nesium and hydrogen.

It has been learned also that Sirius is rushing through space at the rate of from twenty to thirty miles in every second of time. He carries with him, no doubt, all the worlds which travel around his globe. But it must not be supposed that this rapid motion changes his place among the stars in a way we can easily recognize. On the contrary, so enormous is this sun's distance that his change of place can only be detected by a very powerful telescope, or else after

long periods of time.

And this leads me to consider a curi- Cord Wood Wanted ous discovery that has been made about this glorious sun. Of course it is to be supposed that Sirius, like our sun, has a family of worlds traveling round him.

This set observers looking for any companion body which might travel round Sirius. For they saw that any such body, to explain the movements of Sirius, must be very large, though of course they expected only to find it much faintthey expected only to find it much fainter than Sirius himself. However, for a long time they could find the such com-

panion. At last a fine telescope, with a glass eighteen and one-half inches in diameter, made by the celebrated opti-cian, Alvin Clarke, of Cambridge, Mass showed a faint star close by Sirius—that is seemingly close, for in reality it was found to be at the very least two thous-

size and magnificence the system travel-ing round our sun as the sun himself is surpassed in glory and in might by the splendid sun we call the Dog-star.

How a Statesman Controlled His Temper

When M. de Persigny was French Lyon and Osceola. Minister of the Interior, he received a Counties in Northwest Iowa, are visit one day from a friend, who, on conceded to be the most beautiful produced on the minister, his friend cast possession given. We will, if needa furtive glance at it, when, to his aston- ed, furnish seed for next year's ishment, he perceived that it was simply crop. We will also furnish breaka plain sheet of paper, without a scratch ing to be done, for which we will upon it. More puzzled than ever, the pay the regular prices. Tenants gentleman, after a few moments took his not having teams enough to break leave and proceeded to the usher, to with, will be supplied with a horse whom he was well known, for he him- or horses for that purpose, at marself had been a Minister of the Interior.

"You have," said he, "just handed to breaking. These farms are all sitthe minister a note, folded up, which had a most extraordinary effect upon him Now, it was a plain sheet of paper, with letter to CLOSE BROS. & CO., nothing written upon it. What did it mean ?"

"Sir," replied the usher, "here is the explanation, which I must beg you to keep secret, for I do not wish to compromise myself. My master is very warm and very liable to lose his temper. As he himself is aware of his weakness. he hes ordered me, each time that his temper is getting the better of him, and he at once calms himself. Just now I heard his voice rising, and immediately carried out my instructions."

The Law of Libel.

The bill introduced by Hon Mr. Fraser for the amendment of the law of libel assimilates the law to that now in force in England. At present in this Propublic meeting will be recorded as privileged and it will be a sufficient justification in answer to an action for libel on account of any language reportments.

A few days ago a farmer came to Belle-ville, fell in with a woman he had never seen before, and within twenty minutes agreed to marry her. He went for a license, but had to return to the woman's AFTER 4 SEASON'S TRIAL. residence to get her name, which he did not know. A clergyman was procured, and the couple were married within an hour of their first meeting. The husband went home that night, promising to call for her within two days, but has not yet done so.

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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

The address-label on the first page will show each subscriber the state of his account with THE SIGNAL, and (it may be hinted) that this is an appropriate season for making an alteration in the figures.

here are other figures in our books, also, which might very appropriate ly be adjusted before the end of this month.

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word to the wise is sufficient, and we will say no more at present, for we detest dunnin g.

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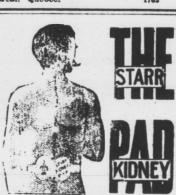
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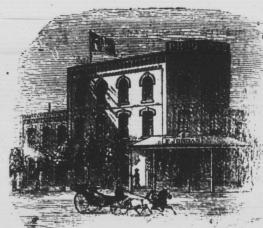
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