

tion. The subject is full of peculiar interest; for if it be true with regard to general history that "the two things best worth attending to in history are not party intrigues, nor battles, nor dynastic affairs, nor even many Acts of Parliament; but the great movements of the economic forces of society on the one hand, and on the other the forms of religious opinion and ecclesiastical organization," it is all the more important to take note of the Socialistic movement, as a fact in contemporary history, both in its economic and religious aspects. As Socialism in politics tends to Republicanism, as in economics it tends to Communism, so in matters of religion it tends to Atheism, though, perhaps, it is too much to say with the Christian Social organ of Catholic Germany, that "Atheism is at the root of every form of Socialism." Nor is it very hard to account for this alliance of Socialism and Atheism. It is to a great extent the result of the materialistic tendencies of modern science and mechanical views of the universe

entertained by leading scientists. The fact in itself is of some significance, that the same year saw the publication of Mr. Darwin's "Origin of Species," and that of the textbook of social democracy, the work on "Capital" by Karl Marx. But, as one of the leading spirits of Socialism, Bebel, said in the debate on the Socialist laws in the German Diet: "With regard to Atheism our standpoint is simply that of the scientific materialistic view of the universe which . . . is not, however, our work; it has been called into existence without our agitation, literature, or activity; but, in the truest and fullest sense of the word, it is entirely the product of science in its modern development during the present century."

Fortnightly Review (June) has no paper of marked interest, but several that are readable; as "Eton in Eighty-Five," "The Queen and her Family," "Wyclif and the Bible," "Paris as an English Residence," and "Peace with Russia."

PRACTICAL ASTRONOMY.

By ROYAL HILL.*

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.—Ps. xix: 1.

The Location of the Stars for July.

JULY 1st, 8:30 P.M. As we again face the south point of the horizon at this hour, the last stars of the large constellation Virgo are passing the meridian; its principal star, Spica, being nearly two hours to the west. Another Zodiac constellation, Libra—The Scales—occupies the place of honor. This is one of the smallest constellations of the Zodiac, the sun passing through it in twenty-three days—between the 29th of October and the 21st of November. Libra is well marked by the two stars of the 3d magnitude that we see before us, somewhat more than half way up the sky. Of these, the highest one is exactly on the meridian at this moment; the other, which is lower in the sky, has already passed to the west about half an hour. The latter is remarkable in that it lies almost exactly in the path of the sun, which passes close to it on the 5th of November.

Arcturus—which, next to Sirius, is the brightest star visible in northern latitudes—is now just one hour to the west of our point of observation. The constellation of the Northern Crown is just coming to the meridian at this moment; Alphecca, the brightest of the seven stars that form the band of the crown, being 15 minutes to the east. Still further to the east is the lovely summer star, Lyra. About midnight it will pass the meridian, and will then be very nearly overhead.

About an hour to the east of our point of observation, and about halfway up the sky, another

very beautiful object engages our attention. It is a large and very conspicuous cross, inclined somewhat to the west. The upright of the cross is formed of six stars—a single one at each end, and two pairs along the line. The transverse bar has only two stars, a line from which will strike very near the highest star of Libra. This cross takes in part of two constellations: the three upper stars of the upright and the right-hand star of the beam being in The Serpent, the other four being in Ophiuchus, The Serpent Bearer, from which constellation the figure takes its name—The Cross of Ophiuchus.

Low down in the south, a little east of the meridian, are a number of stars forming a curved line, and near them a very beautiful red star. This is Antares, the principal star of the Zodiac constellation, Scorpius, the Scorpion. This region will well repay examination with a small telescope, or even an opera-glass, as it is full of beautiful stars disposed in pairs, and some of them colored.

If we turn to the north, we notice that that part of the Great Bear known as The Dipper, although it is very high up, has passed to the west of a meridian line. The Little Dipper, which includes all the conspicuous stars in the Little Bear, now stands upright; the North Star at the end of the handle being the lowest, and the bowl above. The brightest star in the bowl is Kochab. At the time Moses led Israel toward Palestine, Kochab was the North star, though it is never so near the Pole as the present North Star is now.

* Prepared for this publication by easy applications of directions in "Stars and Constellations."