

writer. Of all the reviews of this unique character which we have read, in the Foreign and in our own Reviews, we are most pleased on the whole with the paper given in *The British Quarterly* for April. It is fair, discriminating and highly appreciative, and yet does not condone the moral offence which stains her social life, and cannot but, and in righteousness should radically affect the estimate we put on her writings. We quote the closing words as expressing our own sentiments. "And so we part with George Eliot. The above paper has been written with a feeling of deep responsibility by one who knew and loved her well, but who has the thought ever present in his mind, that no one who writes in such a periodical as this will be taken as expressing a private opinion only. Here, if anywhere, should he who writes be careful to judge righteous judgment, and not to falsify the moral code. The central fact of her life's history was one which was not merely regrettable, but one which sadly tended to confuse in her admirers the lines of right and wrong, and to suggest the thought that there may be one rule of morals for the genius,

and another for the ordinary woman; a dangerous and misleading thought, for ethics knows not intellectual distinctions. She herself knew that the world's condemnation was inevitable; she accepted it and acquiesced."

The Methodist Review (July) is not as theological as usual in its make-up. Two of the leading articles possess decided interest for the general reader, viz.: "The Republic of Mexico," by Richard Wheatley, D.D., and "South-Western China and Prospective Trade Routes," by Rev. E. B. Othman. The theological papers, three in number, are on subjects of great and ever-present interest, viz.: "Anthropomorphism," by Prof. Alexander Winchell, who also contributes an admirable article in the current number of the *HOM. REVIEW*; "The Final Outcome of Sin," by Dr. Sutherland, of Toronto; and "The Latest Testimony to the Atonement," reproduced from the *London Quarterly Review*. It discusses the vital subject in the light of John's Gospel, as the last testimony to the Atonement, in a highly interesting manner.

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 AUGUST.

AUGUST 1st, 8:30 P.M. As usual in these our observations of the evening skies we face the south, and note first that the Zodiac constellation Libra has passed to the west of the meridian, and we now have before us The Scorpion, of which Antares is the principal star, now nearly an hour past the meridian. Its very red color and incessant twinkling—which last is caused by its very low position in these latitudes, make it by far the most conspicuous object in that part of the sky. The constellation itself is the most conspicuous and beautiful of all the so-called Zodiac constellations, though the fact is that the sun passes through only a very small portion of Scorpius at the upper part of the curved line of stars, the greater part of his course in this part of the heavens being through the lower part of Ophiuchus, the Serpent Bearer. To those who have a clear southern horizon and can see the whole of The Scorpion with its long tail of bright stars, this constellation will more nearly suggest the figure of its pronomen than perhaps any other in the sky.

Another constellation now upon the meridian is Ophiuchus. It is a large constellation of a very irregular shape upon the star maps, though in the sky its principal limits are pretty well defined by a number of rather conspicuous stars forming an irregular hollow square. Its principal star is Ras Alhague (name nearly obsolete) of the second magnitude, now within 15 minutes of passing the meridian about three-quarters of the way up the sky, which marks the highest part of the constellation. Its lowest part extends

down to, and even among, the stars of the Scorpion; the Cross of Ophiuchus marks its western side, and the eastern is defined by the Milky Way, which has become very conspicuous on nights when the moon is absent and the sky is clear.

Glancing from Ras Alhague toward the north star, the eye meets, just beyond the Zenith, two stars of the second magnitude not far apart. These are called The Eyes of the Dragon, and are in the large constellation of that name, which extends on each side of The Little Bear nearly up to the North Pole of the heavens.

The large constellation Hercules, which is also on the meridian at this moment, includes all the stars seen between Ras Alhague and the Eyes of the Dragon in a north and south direction, and between the bright Star Vega in the east and the half circle of the Northern Crown just west of the meridian. It has no very conspicuous stars, but occupies quite a large space in the heavens. It is to a point situated in this constellation that the Sun, attended by the earth and planets and all the comets and other appendages of the solar system, is traveling through space at a speed estimated by astronomers at from ten to twenty miles a second. Whether their path is an orbit having a fixed centre or not, and in what direction this central orb may be, is at present unknown.

On the 21st of this month Vega will pass the meridian at this hour. On the 20th, the Sun is at that part of the heavens where we have been for some months past watching the bright star Regulus of the Lion.

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