

than the other and is growing still brighter; one twinkles less than the other; one changes its place among the stars and the other is fixed; one is the true Mars, the other is the Anti-Mars (Antares).

Next month or the month after will be a good time for a special article on Mars.

The Asteroids. Of these *Vesta* was at her best in January but she is still within range of a good field-glass with a patient pair of eyes behind it. She is moving east. On April 20th she will be near Psi Cancri. In June next year you will be able to see her without a glass if your eyes are fairly good.

Ceres, Pallas and Juno are at their best for this year in April, May and June and may be found and followed with a field glass. They are all moving west at present. On April 20th, *Ceres* will be in the north of *Scorpio* near Ksi, *Pallas* in the north of *Serpens* near *Corona*, *Juno* in *Ophiuchus* very near 23.

But this is not a good year for *Pallas*, or *Juno*, and the Asteroid-seeker had better confine his efforts to *Ceres*. Her "opposition" falls in the middle of May and she will then be about as bright as a seventh magnitude star.

Find Ksi *Scorpii* from its position on your map. It is the brightest star in the northern prolongation of *Scorpio*. South and a little east of it at a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ is 11 *Scorpii* of the sixth magnitude. Directly east of 11 and another $1\frac{1}{2}$ or so off is another small star of about 8 magnitude. *Ceres* will be under this one in the middle of April. At the end of the month she will be under 11. About May 20th she will be half-way between Ksi *Scorpii* and *Gamma Librae*.

This will be the best chance to see *Ceres* for several years hence.

Jupiter. Won't be visible before midnight until near the end of May.

Saturn. Saturn is now on the west side of *Regulus*. He was due north of the Star at the end of March, and only $3'$ distant. He will continue moving west until the end of April, and will be again due north of *Regulus* at the end of May. The ring is now at its widest for this year. This is less than half the width it showed three years ago, but it is more than double what it will show next year. The largest Satellite, *Titan*, may often be picked up in a small telescope if looked for at the right times. These times for the next month will be on the following dates and for a day or two on each side of them:—April 13, 21, 29, May 7, 15. On the second and fourth of these *Titan* will be out on the east side of *Saturn*, on the others he will be on the west side. Note that it is easy to cheat yourself into thinking that you have seen *Titan*, when you have only seen a small star that *Saturn* happens to be near at the time. People often make the same mistake about *Jupiter's* moons.

Uranus. *Uranus* is now at his best for the year. On April 14th he will be on the meridian at true midnight. If you have heard or read that he can't be seen without a telescope, don't believe it—at least not until you have given your own eyes a fair chance.

First, look at *Spica*, the brightest star in the south-east at 9 o'clock in the middle of April. To the left of *Spica* you will see (use your glass if necessary) three small stars nearly in line with each other and with *Spica*. That's how they will look a few days after the middle of April. The outermost of the three little fellows is—but it will be better to put it this way—two of them are stars (h and m *Virginis*, m may be 82 on your map), the other is *Uranus*. As you watch them from night to night after April 20th you will find *Uranus* moving slowly off the line. He will move in the same direction until the end of June and will then begin to move back, but he won't get back to that line again until it is too late in the season to see him.

Neptune is still up in the early evening but you had better postpone further study of him until October.

A. CAMERON.

Yarmouth, N. S.

FERNDALE SCHOOL.

No. XXIX—BIRDS OF PREY.



BARRED OWL. *Syrnium nebulosum*. (Forst.) 368 A. O. U.
[Shot near Bedford, Halifax, Oct. 17th, 1889. Total length from end of bill to end of tail feathers (measured before skinning) = 19½ inches.]

Nightly sings the staring owl,

To-who;

Tu-whit, to-who, a merry note.

—SHAKESPEARE—*Love's Labor's Lost*. Act. V. Sc. 2.

O thou precious owl!

The wise Minerva's only fowl.

—SIR PHILIP SIDNEY—*A Remedy for Love*.

TEACHER. Here we have our Barred Owl in fine light plumage and with a very light ruff around its neck. Let me ask you some review questions on it. Does it belong to the Order *Steganopodes*?

S. No. Its toes are not full webbed.

T. Is it one of the *Tubinares*—the Order *Tubenosed* birds?

S. No. Its nostrils are not a pair of tubes.

T. First, the web; second the nostrils; now thirdly, I ask you to examine the cutting edges of its bill. Is the cutting edge fringed or toothed, or not?

S. It is not. It therefore does not belong to the Order *Anseres*—the lamel billed birds.