

Castor and Pollux, from each of which a line of finer stars runs toward Orion. Below these again is Canis Minor, with the bright star Procyon.

The great square of Pegasus is well up in the west. Aquarius is below it. Cygnus is low in the northwest, and Lyra is still lower, Vega being near setting. Cepheus, Cassiopeia, and Perseus lie in the Milky Way between Cygnus and Auriga, and Andromeda and Aries are south of them, almost overhead. Ursa Major, Ursa Minor, and Draco lie below the Pole, and so are not conspicuous.

January Birthdays.

January 1, 1728. Edmund Burke born in Dublin; orator, statesman, philanthropist; as M. P. he recommended measures which, had they been adopted, would have averted the Revolutionary War in America; his essay on the "Sublime and Beautiful" is an English classic.

January 3, 106 B. C. Marcus Tullius Cicero, a great orator and writer and an illustrious Roman; rose from a humble station to the highest office in the Roman Republic. Catiline conspired to kill him and others and burn Rome, but Cicero drove him from the city by his eloquence. Of literary labors he says: "They nourish our youth and delight our old age. They adorn our prosperity and give a refuge and solace to our troubles."

January 6, 1811. Charles Sumner, born in Boston; a great orator; opposed to slavery.

January 15, 1726. General James Wolfe, born in Kent county, England; was distinguished in the army when but twenty years old; his success at Louisburg placed him at the head of the army; at twenty-three years of age he took Quebec, dying from wounds in the moment of victory.

January 17, 1706. Benjamin Franklin born in Boston, of English parents (see sketch, p. 190.)

January 18, 1782. Daniel Webster born in New Hampshire; great statesman and orator.

January 19, 1807. General Robert E. Lee; chief Confederate general in the United States Civil War.

January 22, 1561. Francis Bacon born in London; one of the greatest philosophers of modern times; a great orator, statesman and author; his essays are literary masterpieces. When sixteen he wrote: "They learn nothing at the universities but to believe; they are like a becalmed ship, they never move but by the wind of other men's breath."

January 24, 1712. Frederick the Great, King of Prussia; was brought up and educated with great severity, and made to endure many hardships as a

lad; was a great warrior; was involved in the Seven Years' War with but one ally—England; had varied successes and ill-fortune.

January 25, 1759. Robert Burns the national poet of Scotland, born near Ayr; his father a poor farmer; suffered many hardships in early life, and was intemperate in his later years; died at the early age of thirty-seven. His most famous poems are: "Tam O'Shanter," "Cotter's Saturday Night," "To a Mountain Daisy." Scott, then a very young man, met the poet at Edinburgh, and has left a very interesting account of his appearance.

January 31, 1574(?) Ben Jonson, great poet and dramatist, born at Westminster; wrote "Every Man in His Humour," "The Alchemist," and many other plays. His tombstone in Westminster Abbey bears the inscription, "O rare Ben Jonson!"

[These birthdays may be made the occasions of recitations from the authors' works, and these and other additional notes expanded into short compositions.]

Our Native Trees.

BY G. U. HAY.

The Pines.

"This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and the hemlocks,
Bearded with moss and with garments green, indistinct in the twilight,
Stand like Druids of old, with voices sad and prophetic,
Stand like harpers hoar with beards that rest on their bosoms."

Those who have camped out in a pine forest will recognize the appropriateness of the poet's word "murmuring." But not so with the rest of the description. One seldom sees a living pine tree covered with the "old man's beard," which the poet in his license describes as a "moss." Rather commend us to the description of Lowell, who says:

"Spite of winter, thou keepest thy green glory,
Lusty father of Titans past number!
The snowflakes alone make thee hoary,
Nestling close to thy branches in slumber,
And thee mantling with silence."

The white pine is here meant, the monarch, the loftiest and largest of girth of all our eastern Canadian trees. Most of these "Titans past number" have fallen by the axe of the lumberman, and the younger and smaller trees only remain, except in the depths of a remote forest where the ground is covered with the accumulated leaf mould of centuries. The white pine (*Pinus Strobus*) takes its