

teacher—him who is the true master—master-workman, master of his place and business—ask him the secret of his strength and he would be exceedingly perplexed to define it. Tell the feverish one that his restlessness is his weakness, and he will not be able to apply an immediate correction. What are we obliged to conclude, then, but that in each of these instances there is going on an unconscious development of a certain internal character or quality of manhood

which has been accumulating through previous habits, and which is now acting as a positive, formative, and mighty force in making these boys and girls into the men and women they are to be? And it acts both on the intellectual nature and the moral, for it advances or dissipates their studies, while it more powerfully affects the substance and tendencies of character.—*By the Right Rev. F. D. Huntington, S. T. D., Bishop of Central New York.*

### ASTRONOMICAL NOTES—FEBRUARY—MARCH.

· THOMAS LINDSAY, TORONTO.

**A**N opportunity of seeing Mercury occurs this month. The planet reaches his greatest elongation  $19^{\circ}$  east on March 31, and sets on that day at 8h. 10m. Standard Time, and in the direction W.  $18^{\circ} 44'$  north.

Venus as the evening star is altogether unrivalled in beauty, surpassing all the planets and first magnitude stars in brilliancy. The illuminated portion of her disc is decreasing, but the angular diameter is increasing as she approaches the earth. Bright as the planet is she has not yet attained her greatest brilliancy. The metallic lustre of Venus is a great bar to satisfactory telescopic work; the best results are obtained by day-light observations. To any one possessing a telescope mounted equatorially it is an easy matter to find the planet by referring to the tables of the ephemeris for her R. A. and Dec. With an ordinary instrument placed with care in the plane of the meridian the culminations of Venus may be noted as follows: On March 10th the meridian passage occurs at Toronto, at 2h. 55m. 16s. Standard Time; for each day to the end of the month

add 30 sec. The meridian altitude on March 10 is  $58^{\circ} 43'$ ; increase from about  $27'$  daily in the middle, and about  $20'$  daily at the end of the month.

Saturn is now in opposition to the sun, culminating at midnight. The ring in a small telescope is a mere thread of light, and the planet's angular diameter is less than during the opposition of last year, as his distance from the earth is greater. In the midnight sky, during this month, we have the constellation Virgo on the meridian, the bright stars of Orion low down in the west and Lyra rising in the north-east.

The binary  $\gamma$  Virginis is a 3rd magnitude star about half way between Saturn and Spica, and north of the line joining the two. This is one of the binary systems which have been carefully observed and their periods computed. Close to Vega, the brightest star in the Lyre, is  $\epsilon$  Lyrae, an easy double in a small telescope, and a beautiful double-double with 3 inch aperture.

The familiar constellation of the Great Bear is now becoming favourably placed for observations. The