

easy case. In the constellation of the Great Bear, the second star in the handle of the "dipper," known as *Mizar* has just above and almost touching it, a tiny star called *Alcor*. These form what is called a naked eye double—that is to say, the smaller star is visible to one of ordinarily good sight. With a 3-inch glass, *Mizar* shows as two bright stars, brilliantly contrasted in color, the larger being white and the smaller blue-green, while *Alcor* seems some distance away, and in the intervening distance are several faint stars. The lonely star called *Cor Caroli* some little distance below the first star in the handle of the dipper, is a wide double. One of the finest double stars in the whole heavens is Castor, the uppermost of the twins Castor and Pollux. A power of 110 is sufficient to separate its components, which are of almost equal size. The star called *Beta Cygni*, which forms the foot of the Cross lying under the bright star Vega, is, perhaps, the most beautiful of all the double stars. It is formed of two components, light yellow and deep blue, presenting a sharp contrast. This is an extremely easy object in a small telescope.

Speaking of Vega, there are two little stars towards the east, which form with Vega a small triangle, whereof Vega is the apex. Look at the northern of these two stars. An opera glass will divide it into two twinkling points. Now take the 3-inch telescope with a moderate power. Each of the two stars revealed by the opera glass appears double, and a tiny star is seen on one side of an imaginary line joining the two pairs.

And so I could go on indefinitely, but I fear I have trespassed on your patience as it is. Let me assure you that the whole heavens is a perfect mine of wonders, which declare the glory of God as nothing else vouchsafed to our mortal senses. A whole evening might be spent in contemplating—let us say the great nebula in Orion, which is, perhaps, the most stupendous work of Omnipotence of which we have knowledge. That sight is visible, though not, of course, in its full glory, in a 3-inch telescope.

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