

A TWELVE THOUSAND-FOLD SUN.

THE Sirius system is equal in light to sixty-three of our suns; the Pole-Star system to eighty-six. In each of these the two stars composing the system differ exceedingly from each other in brightness, and the larger star must be credited with the most brilliancy. Think of an eighty-fold sun! However, some stars are still more astonishing; Vega, for example, which blazes with the might of three hundred and forty-four suns; Capella, for example, which blazes with the light of four hundred and thirty; Arcturus, for example, which blazes with the light of five hundred and sixteen; Alcyone, for example, which blazes with the light of twelve thousand! As we have seen, our sun is no trifle. Its astonishing orb would fill the whole lunar orbit and would weigh down, eight hundred times over, its whole ponderous cortege of satellites, planets and comets. And yet it is only one of the lesser lights of space. Not the smallest, indeed—forbid it, little 61 Cygni—but still a mere rush-light and glow-worm as compared with many of the huge luminaries which pour their glories adown the immensity of nature. It could not remain visible a moment in the presence of such golden-haired and majestic day-kings as even Sirius and Polaris, to say nothing of those luger monarchs whose effulgence floods the celestial spaces.—*The Beautiful, the Wonderful, and the Wise.*

SELECTED NOTES.

IRON has been rolled in such thin sheets that 15,000 are required to make an inch in thickness.

IN 1870 the statistics show that with a population of 38,500,000 in the United States there were 16,010 professional musicians and teachers of music; while in 1880, with a population of 50,100,000, there were 30,477 musicians. In other words, that while the population has increased about one-third in ten years, the number of musicians has nearly doubled.