

v. 20, that "the stars in their courses fought against Sisera." Prof. McCurdy, of Toronto, is of opinion that stones from heaven mean hail, and says the word "hailstones" in the latter part of the verse is simply a plainer term for "stones from heaven," and the ordinary word for hail as well as for stones is employed, viz., *bārād*.

The cult of aerolites at Rome was of Eastern origin, and we will accompany two of them on their westward travels to that city.

In the year 204 B. C. aerolites fell oftener than usual. The decemvirs therefore consulted the Sybilline books, and found "that a foreign enemy landed on Italian soil could be driven off by bringing the Idræan mother from Pessinus to Rome." At this time Hannibal's terrible grip was loosening, and the consuls were preparing to carry the war into Africa. Great events were in the air. The crisis of an intense struggle was reached. The men at the helm of state felt the turning of the tide; but wishing to leave nothing undone that would command success, desired to fan religious fervour while levies were being raised. Revivalism (*repens religio*) and drill were, as in the time of Cromwell, conjoined. The senate had recently made good friends of the Oracle of Delphi, and had been assured that a crowning victory was in store for them, so the embassy they sent to Attalus of Phrygia, their only Asiatic ally, in charge of a squadron of five line-of-battle ships, visited Delphi *en route*. The priests told the ambassadors that Attalus would grant their requests, and that on obtaining the goddess mother they were to select the best of their citizens to receive her and welcome her to Rome. Attalus accordingly met the envoys with all kindness at Pergamus, his capital, took them to Pessinus, and gave them a sacred stone which the residents said was the mother of the gods. Sending one of their number forward to announce success, they followed at leisure. Meantime, more prodigies at home. Two suns were seen. (Parhelia, so common here, are rare in Italy.) It grew light at night-time. (Query—An aurora?) A bolide like a torch flew from east to west across the sky. Lightning struck several important places, and a great crash, without apparent cause, was heard in one of Juno's temples. When, finally, another shower of stones occurred, they had a day of general supplication and nine days of religious exercises and consultations how to receive the ancestral goddess. She was coming—the vessels were at Terracina—then at Ostia, the mouth of Tiber. They chose Publius Cornelius Scipio. (Livy will neither tell nor guess at the exact reason why he was thought the worthiest of the Romans.) With him all the matrons of the city streamed out to Ostia. He put out from shore to receive the goddess in the roadstead, and, on returning, he delivered her to the matrons, who received her with enthusiasm, and, passing her along the ladies'-chain from hand to hand, in that strange way they carried her to Rome. There were censers at the gates from which clouds of the smoke of spices