

forming an irregular W. Then far below, the Sickle, the exact shape of that tool held in the left hand; the star Regulus in the handle is of the first magnitude. With regard to the Pleiades, a singular error is often made. If the question be asked, How many stars can you count? almost every one will say seven, and yet to the ordinary eye only six are visible, though Miss Ayre, the daughter of the Astronomer Royal of England, has counted twelve. A tradition exists that one star has been lost. Tradition in all nations strangely connects the Pleiades with the Flood. With the field glass a vision of loveliness bursts on the eye as dozens of stars may be counted. The Northern Crown may easily be found in the summer sky overhead, and recalls Longfellow's lines, "As if fair Arctur's crown out of the sky had fallen down." The Northern Cross too, though not so brilliant as that of the Southern Hemisphere, is still quite conspicuous, and is in Cygnus, the Swan; here may be found a double star with different colours, but not so beautiful as that near Vega. Here is also the celebrated star, 61 Cygni, the nearest but one to our earth. It may be questioned, which of the three stars, Vega, Capella, or Arcturus, is the most beautiful, one with a blue light, another a rich yellow. The double star near Vega looks to the naked eye elongated, with an opera glass two stars are seen, by the aid of a telescope each of these is found to be double. Vega, and the two stars found near it, form a beautiful little equilateral triangle. Idly one night the field glass was turned to a part of the sky apparently free from stars, or rather of a faint nebulous appearance, when, with a start of pleased surprise, Praesipe, called variously the Beehive, or the Manger, a beautiful little cluster, like a cobweb hung with dew drops was recognized. Another small

constellation seen to advantage in the field glass is Berenice's Hair. A large W may be made by taking with the equilateral triangle mentioned before, Cor Hydræ, or the Solitary one, and Regulus. One of the most brilliant stars in the whole heaven is Antares, in the Scorpion—the glass brings out the sparkling of many colours. Altair, another star of the first magnitude, may be known as one of three in a straight line. Libra, the Balance, and Corvus, the Crow, are irregular squares; Libra much larger than the other, and described in Milton's lines,

The Almighty, to prevent such horrid fray,
Hung forth in Heaven the ponderous scales
As seen between *Astrea* and the *Scorpion*
sign.

The stars, Argol, the Demon, and Mira, the Wonderful, one with a period of eleven months, the other of nearly three days, blaze out and fade away in a fashion distracting to unwary observers. The famous Temporary Star, in Cassiopeia, blazed out in 1572 as seen by Tycho Brahe. It has a period of 300 years; some think it the Star of Bethlehem, and that it may soon be looked for again.

A romantic story which cannot be improved on by modern novelists with all their ingenuity, is preserved for us in four constellations, the Royal Family: Cassiopeia, the Queen; Cepheus, the King; Andromeda, the fair daughter; and Perseus, the lover and hero of the story. Andromeda has been chained to a rock, to be devoured by a sea monster because of the foolish boasting of her mother. Perseus, returning through the air with the head of Medusa, the Gorgon, came flying, knightlike, to the rescue, turned the sea monster into stone by holding before him that awful head. Of course he married the maiden and they lived happy ever after. We must admire the unusual self-command of Andromeda in restraining her curiosity while obeying the command of