

Saturn being still on the east side of Venus. Their nearest approach will occur at noon (60° time) on the 17th. Saturn will then be $5^{\circ} 17'$ less than a tenth of a degree north of Venus. Both planets at this time will be two and one half hours east of the meridian in longitude 60, and three hours east of it in longitude 68.

But that is hardly definite enough to enable any one to find them. Well, try the following plan. The first thing is to find out whether your glass will show Saturn in daylight. On the 16th, Venus will be on the meridian, and about 60° high, at 2.36 mean time, which will be 3 (60° time) to places in longitude 60. Even if you have only a rough idea of the location of your meridian, and only a rough idea of an altitude of 60°, your eye ought to be able to find Venus with a very little seeking. Find her, and then try with your glass for Saturn. At that time he will be nearly a degree to the left of Venus—a degree is twice the breadth of the full moon. If your glass shows Saturn, then wait until evening. Go out between 9 and 9.30, and find Gamma Aquilæ. It is the small star above Altair. About nine you will find Altair quite high up in the south-east. It is a first magnitude star, and is easily known by its having a small star on each side of it, the one above nearer and brighter than the one below. The one above is Gamma Aquilæ. Note the position of this star very carefully at 9.30 (60° time), or still better, the position at that time of a point about as far above Gamma as it is above Altair. Very nearly in that same spot on your sky, you will find Venus at noon (60° time), on the 17th, when she and Saturn are closest together. But the glass that showed Saturn on the afternoon of the 16th, may perhaps fail to show him when so close to Venus. However there is no harm in trying.

By the evening of the 17th, the planets will be a third of a degree apart, and now Saturn will be to the right of Venus. Next evening the distance between them will $1\frac{1}{2}$, and will be increased by rather more than a degree each evening after. By the evening of August 1st, Venus will have left Saturn 16° behind.

When watching a close conjunction such as this is, one naturally gets a-wondering if the planets will hit and what would happen if they did so. What would happen would probably be something very unpleasant for the inhabitants of the planets—if they have inhabitants. But there is little chance of a collision in the present case. It is true that at the moment of nearest approach there is little more than five minutes of arc between Venus and Saturn in the sky—as we see them. And it is true that this distance is no more than the length of one inch as seen from

a distance of about eighteen yards. But they seem so close only because we happen to see them nearly in the same line. If we could change our point of view—if for instance we could at the time of conjunction jump from here to the sun and look at Saturn and Venus from there, we would see them separated by 54'. Or suppose we could get across the hundred million miles that separate us at present from Venus, and, standing on the side of Venus nearest to Saturn, should try to toss a biscuit over on to Saturn as we pass him. As the two will look from here on the 17th, this will seem quite an easy feat—the tossing of a biscuit from one to the other I mean, not the getting from here to Venus. But to get from one to the other, that biscuit would have to be tossed eight times as far as from here to Venus, for at the time of conjunction Venus will be 100 million miles from here, and Saturn will be 800 million miles beyond Venus. So there is not much chance of a collision between them, however close the shave may seem to us.

A. CAMERON.

NAME: N. S. S.

P. S. Belcher's and McMillan's Almanacs are at it again. Speaking of July, they say: "by the end of the month Jupiter is hidden in the sun's rays." That brightest star in the south-east in the evening is Jupiter. Watch him at the end of the month.

A. C.

THE REVIEW.

Educational Notes.

The teachers of Amherst have begun work in botany, and hope to have the required number of specimens ere the Summer School begins.

A late Friday afternoon, Grade VIII, had a good programme, consisting of readings, recitations, and singing, accompanied by the cornet, violin, piccolo, and whistling. This was no show for outsiders, but in connection with the regular work.

Grade VII, did not wish the other grade to win all the laurels, so they have hired a piano, and the following afternoon they rendered a good programme.

The Friday afternoon promises to supply a missing link in the education of the children. In this way, they are being trained to find pleasure in literary and musical entertainment, and not only that, but they are led to produce it themselves. Can not the teacher by judicious management thus train our children, so that the greatest pleasure of our future citizens will be musical and literary entertainment? The teachers report that it has a beneficial effect on the regular work. Will it not be training in temperance?

AMHERST.