

a year later. The comet will then be regarded as past history, for it will have gone from view, both telescope and camera failing to report anything further. But so exact are the operations of mathematics that, on any day and at any hour a skilled astronomer can tell just where the comet is, how fast it is going, and how near it is to the sun or the nearest planet.

We have spoken of the comet as twice crossing the earth's path. It is manifest that the earth and comet might happen to meet at one of these crossing points. Hence a collision, do you say? We will discuss that in a later article. But, according to the calculation followed above, the earth will be at the first crossing about Oct. 20, 1909, and at the second about May 1, 1910. As the comet will be at those same points on April 1 and June 15, it is clear that the two bodies miss each other by a wide margin. About the middle of May the comet is expected to reach the nearest point to the earth's path and the two bodies will for two or three weeks be near each other. The nearest possibility of approach is about

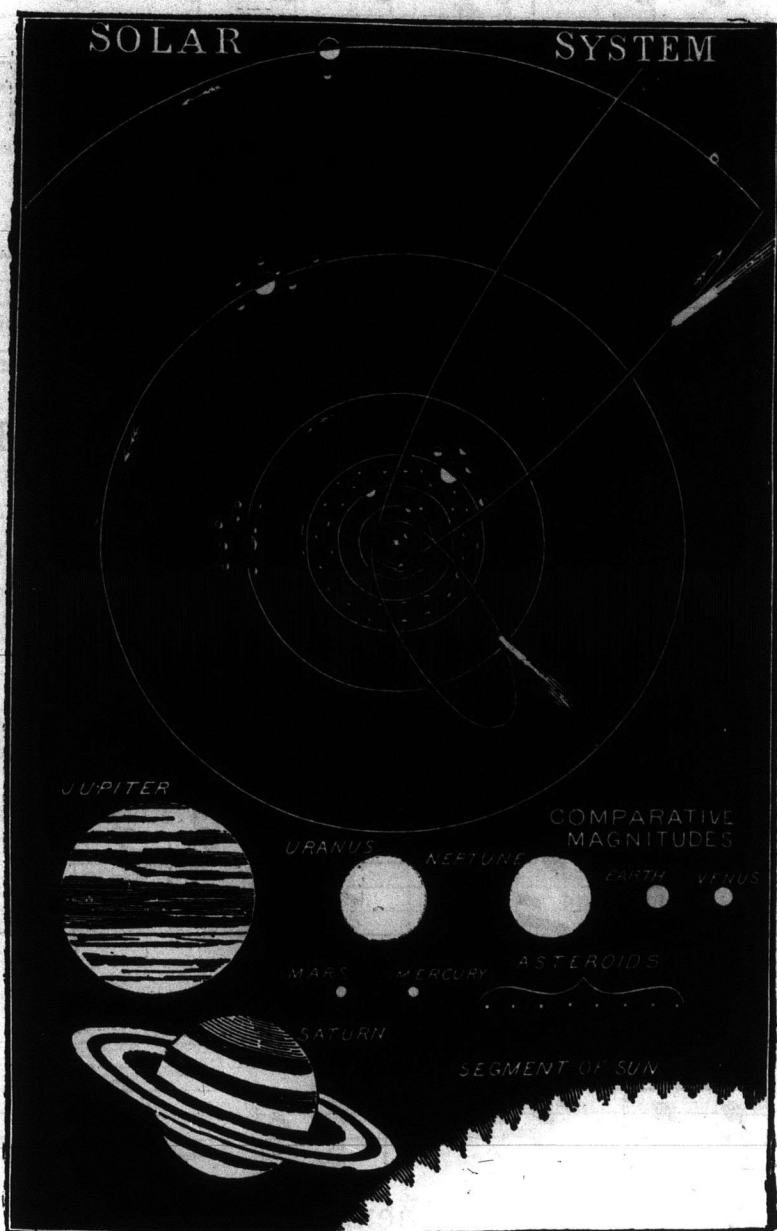
My Lady.

By Frederick Smith

Out of the South there came a Lady fair;
Her mantle was of coolest, palest green;
She flung it wide it touched the woods,
and there
Were tender leaves where once bare boughs had been.

She frowned: the sky was clouded, and the Earth
Felt the new thrill of livening April rain;
She sighed, and sighing, gave the warm moist May winds birth;
Her blue eyes smiled: the heavens grew bright again.

She loosed her red gold tresses, and the sun
Flooded the world. At her first whispered words
The meadow brooks fell talking one to one.
She sang: the echoes were the songs of birds.



The solar system, showing paths of planets, and of comets of long and short periods.

6,000,000 miles, or 24 times the distance of the moon; but the comet will never be less than twice that distance from our globe. It is manifest, therefore, that there is nothing to dread.

At its last visit to our sky, the comet was visible from Aug. 5, 1835, to May 5, 1836, a period of no less than nine months. It is for some such length of time that mankind will again look upon this stupendous spectacle. Only we must remember that with the telescopes, some are already enjoying what the rest must see for a briefer time with the naked eye. For months, however, everyone will be favored. For a comet is not like a meteor, flashing and expiring; nor like an eclipse, a matter of very few minutes or hours, and visible only in certain quarters of the earth. It is rather a visitor that has come for quite a sojourn, giving every human eye, the world over, the opportunity not only to witness one of the most marvelous apparitions of the heavens, but to watch and study it in all its details.

Where, on the uplands her light feet had pressed,
Houstonias and shy violets marked the place.
From trees that her white fingers had caressed,
Sprang broad-leaved dogwood and the white-thorn's lace.

The wild azaleas opened at her blush;
The orchards grew faint pink with apple bloom;
My lady breathed, and zephyrs came to brush
A thousand flowers and scatter their perfume.

And as she crossed the world and smiled to them,
New alleluias did Earth's children sing;
And who with pure heart touched her garment's hem
Had gained a blessing from "My Lady Spring."

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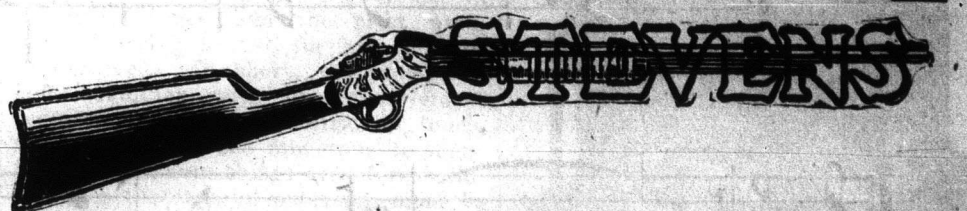


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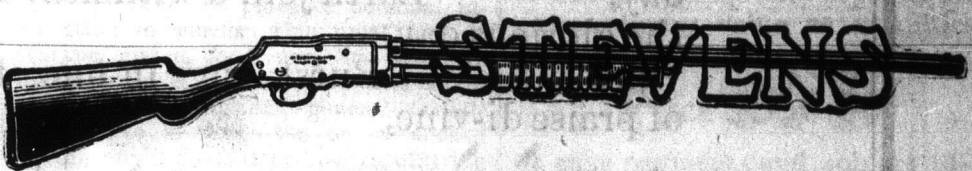


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