

is the figures should not lead any one to a wrong conception of the facts.

Wearied of floating, the crystals of snow
Tumbled to rest on the ground below.
There was no room for each, side by side,
So one on the top of the other did ride.
And that is the reason, if I must be frank,
Why the snow stands two feet three in a bank.

Find out what is wrong with this. Then try to do as well as the poets quoted without copying them.

The Heavens in January.

At 10 o'clock, p. m. in the middle of January the array of constellations is the finest that the heavens, in our latitudes ever present. Orion is on the meridian, in the most favorable position for the exhibition of his splendors. The two great stars that adorn his shoulder and his foot, Betelgeuse and Rigel, show their contrast of colors admirably, sparkling through the crisp air. Betelgeuse glows like a Brazilian topaz, while Rigel's light is of diamond purity. Midway between them glitters the Belt with its three bright stars in a row, so accurately spaced and aligned that they seem to have just obeyed the command, "Eyes front!" In themselves they would hold attention, but on a dark clear night the sky about them is seen to be sprinkled with a multitude of tiny stars, whose twinkling affects the eye like half-illuminated frost-work. Below the Belt hangs the sword, sheathed in the mysterious haze of the Great Nebula.

Following the direction indicated by the stars of the Belt, downward toward the left hand, at a distance of some twenty degrees, the eye is led to Sirius, ablaze, if the air be a little unsteady, with prismatic hues. The spectacle of Sirius shining above a snow-clad hill on a January night is a surprising revelation of the power of a star to enhance the beauty of a terrestrial landscape.

Westward from Orion runs the winding "river of stars," Eridanus, with Cetus just setting beyond it, while toward the east, above Sirius, appears Monoceros, followed by the interminable Hydra, dragging its slow length above the horizon.

Next in attractiveness to Orion and his immediate neighbors, which include Auriga, with the brilliant Capella, nearly overhead, is the winter arch of the Zodiac, beginning at the level of the hills in the west with Pisces, and rising through Aries to Taurus (the tip of whose horns touches the meridian above Orion), and then descending in the east through Gemini, Cancer and Leo, to Virgo, whose westernmost stars are just poised on the horizon.

Under Gemini and Cancer, the latter being easily recognized by the glimmer of the beehive cluster, shines Procyon, the leading star of Canis Major.

Glancing northwestward, Perseus, Andromeda, and Pegasus are seen aligned in a downward slope to the horizon, while Cassiopeia's "W" shines between them and the Pole, balanced against the Great Dipper, which is rising, bowl upward in the northeast.

THE PLANETS.

Mercury is a morning star, in the constellation Sagittarius. It reaches its greatest western elongation on January 11, when it may be seen nearly two hours before sunrise.

Venus is a morning star and very brilliant, rising at the beginning of the month, about 4.30 a. m. It travels from Scorpio into Ophiuchus. On the 25th it will be in conjunction with Saturn.

Mars has become the "star" of the planetary company, being in opposition to the sun on January 18, and therefore visible the entire night. It is in the constellation Gemini. On the 15th it will be about 60,000,000 miles from the earth, so that a telescope magnifying 250 diameters will bring it within an apparent distance equal to the real distance of the moon. A comparison of the lunar features seen by the naked eye with those of Mars seen with the telescopic power mentioned, will be an object lesson in the difficulties of planetary observation. This is a very unfavorable opposition of Mars, but its red color and its conspicuous position will serve to attract all eyes.

Jupiter, in the constellation Libra, is a morning star rising at the opening of the month, soon after 2 a. m.

Saturn is also a morning star, in the constellation Ophiuchus. It rises on the 1st about 5.40 a. m., and those who get up early to see Mercury about the 11th will enjoy a sight of the ringed planet also, as well as of the brilliant Venus.

Uranus is a morning star in Scorpio, and Neptune an evening star in Taurus.—*Garret P. Serviss in Scientific American.*

The total eclipse of the moon, December 27th, was viewed with considerable success at the various observatories in Europe and America. The scientific value of the eclipse will be chiefly verifying the knowledge obtained by other methods of the diameter of the moon.

The eclipse was viewed with great success in Berlin. The moon entered into totality at a quarter to twelve o'clock, when the colors became brighter than previously. It was first a dark brown with a streak of yellow; next a reddish brown, and lastly a beautiful combination of colors, as though pierced by the rays of the sun. The