

The Heavens in November.

The advance guard of the great November meteor swarm is due this month, and on the nights of the 13th, 14th and 15th astronomers in all parts of the earth will be awake and on the lookout. They will be both surprised and disappointed if a meteoric spectacle, which may be a brilliant one, is not beheld by some of the watchers. The main swarm of the meteors is not due until November, 1899, but their advancing columns, broken into parallels and separated by considerable gaps, occupy so much space on the celestial highways they traverse that millions of the mysterious little bodies must already have reached the neighbourhood of the earth's orbit, and it can hardly happen that many of these will not become entangled by the terrestrial attraction, and dart their fiery spears through the upper air.

The reader may like to be reminded that this, the greatest known "meteor shower," has a period of 331 years; that the history of these meteors has been traced back to the year A. D. 126, when the planet Uranus is believed to have captured the wanderers and turned them into a permanent orbit around the sun; that a comet (Tempel's) is known to be travelling in the same orbit with them, and that the world was astonished at the magnificence of the displays which they made in 1833 and 1866. At their return in 1866 changes had taken place in the array of the meteors, indicating a considerable scattering, and in November, 1867, enormous bodies of them were still rushing across the earth's orbit, and another splendid display occurred.

The point in the heavens from which the meteors appear to radiate is situated within the curved blade of the imaginary "sickle" which marks the constellation Leo. This is not well risen until midnight, but late in the evening meteors radiating from it may be seen shooting upward from the northeastern horizon. Observers are advised to begin watching for them about 11 P. M. on November 11, keeping up the watch for five nights altogether and continuing it until the morning twilight begins. Fortunately, there will be no trouble from the moon, which is "new" on the 13th.

The November meteors are very swift in movement, since the earth meets them "head on," and they frequently exhibit bright colors and leave brilliant trains.

The Harvard College Observatory offers to send maps and forms of record to all who will take part in systematic observation of the meteors.

If the expected display on the

13th and 14th does not equal expectation, another chance will be presented on the night of the 27th, when the celebrated Andromeda meteors are due. These are believed to be part of the debris of the vanished comet Biela, and they furnished dazzling spectacles in 1872 and 1885. Their period is thirteen years. During the shower of 1885 an iron meteor, supposed to belong to the Andromeda swarm, and subsequently famous under the name of "a piece of Biela's comet," fell at Mazapil in northern Mexico. Unlike the November 13th meteors, which are known as the Leonids, the Andromeda meteors are slow, because they overtake instead of meeting the earth. Their color is frequently redish. The full moon will interfere with the observation of these meteors, whose radiant point is overhead between 9 and 10 o'clock in the evening.

THE PLANETS.

Mercury is an evening star, but does not attain its greatest eastern elongation until early in December. It moves from Libra into Sagittarius.

Venus ends its career as an evening star with the last day of the month. It is in the constellation Scorpio.

Mars, in the constellation Cancer, rises about 9 P. M. in the middle of the month.

Jupiter has become a morning star in Virgo, but is too near the sun for satisfactory observation.

Saturn remains on the borders of Scorpio and Ophiuchus, slowly moving eastward. It is still an evening star, but, like Jupiter, too near the sun to be well seen.

Uranus passes from the evening into the morning sky on the 25th, and is hidden in the solar rays.

Neptune, in Taurus, rises early in the evening, but being invisible to the naked eye, possesses little interest for the amateur star gazer.

Several planetary conjunctions occur in November. On the 11th, at 10 P. M., Mercury and Uranus meet; on the 18th, at 1 P. M., Mercury and Saturn; on the 20th, at 3 A. M., Mercury and Venus; on the 24th, at 3 A. M., Venus and Saturn.

THE MOON.

New moon occurs on the 13th about 7 P. M.; first quarter on the 20th at noon; full moon on the 27th at midnight; last quarter on the 6th at 9 A. M. The moon is nearest the earth on the 16th, and farthest from it on the 4th.

The lunar conjunctions with the planets occur as follows: Neptune on the 3rd, Mars on the 5th, Jupiter on the 12th, Uranus on the 14th, Mercury on the 14th, Saturn on the 15th, Neptune again on the 29th.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There will be minima of the variable star Algol on the 14th at 5

23 p. m. and the 11th, at 11 35 p. m.

The wonderful variable Mira Ceti, having reached its maximum in October, should be seen fading during November.

The winter constellations are advancing into view, but will be better seen and described in November.

—Scientific American.

Tact of Tact.

Never say too much. Manners go a great way, and delicate matters managed with tact can be carried out without the slightest blow to the sensitive feelings of the parties concerned. It is not tact to rush up to a person and say: "How ill you are looking." And one who is not feeling well generally knows all about it, and does not like to be reminded of the fact. On the contrary, in meeting anybody who is looking particularly well or handsome, there is the time to speak. To be able to keep people in a good humor and never rub them the wrong way shows a wonderful amount of tact, but how many people there are who are always doing the wrong thing. Two old school friends who had not seen each other in years met again a short time ago, and almost immediately after the first words of greeting had been exchanged, the one exclaimed to the other: "Why, you look as if you had been crying for years; your face is so wrinkled."

Now that remark, to say the least, did not show tact, and in a measure it destroyed the old feeling of affection which had existed for so many years. People do not like to be told disagreeable facts, but when an unpleasant truth must be told, to use a little tact in the telling of it will make the hurt less deep. Say and do pleasant things in this world whenever it is possible, but if disagreeable ones come to the surface handle them as gently as possible to spare the feelings of others.—Selected.

That the work done at Uganda is genuine is proved by the fact that when Bishop Tucker recently visited a populous district some 200 miles from Uganda, where no English missionary ever had penetrated, he found the king already baptized and with a Christian church at his capital. Native evangelists had visited the tribe and made many converts.

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