

Melodious waters flow through balmy fields:
 They wander on through moonlit woodland ways,
 To the great deep, where that low murmur yields
 Its tribute to the eternal hymn of praise.

Beyond those purple hills are other lands,
 Where other souls unsatisfied may roam;
 Still vainly seeking, on far alien strands,
 A country more beneficent than home.

Here, in this free Canadian vale for me
 Nature in forms of tragic beauty dwells;
 That wakes in rapturous intensity
 The thrill divine that all delight excels.

SUSSEX, N.B.

—A. B. HUBLY.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

Our readers will remember that The Astronomical and Physical Society of Toronto, conjointly with The Canadian Institute, has been for a year or two engaged in the endeavor to bring about a unification of the Astronomical, Civil and Nautical days. At present, the Astronomical and Nautical days begin at noon and are counted over twenty-four hours, while the Civil day commences at midnight and runs in two series of twelve hours each. As a result, these days over-lap each other in such a manner that the earlier halves of the Astronomical and Nautical days respectively belong to the latter half of the Civil day of one date, while the latter halves of these days belong to the first half of the Civil day of another date, consequently when comparisons are to be made, there is no end of confusion in dates which should be free from this difficulty and can be freed from it by the adoption of mean-midnight as the instant for all of these days to begin. After consulting with the astronomers of the world, the societies have decided to petition the Governor-General to lay the subject before the Home Authorities in order that if possible the Nautical Almanac for the year 1901, shortly to be printed according to usage three or four years in advance, may be issued with the Astronomical and Nautical days in unison with the Civil day.

On the 28th of February last, a series of increasingly violent earth-currents culminated in damaging one of the recording condensers used in the cable office at St. Pierre, Miquelon, and in seriously interfering with the working of the cable generally. The earth-currents appear to have been closely associated with the brilliant aurora and magnetic storms which were very prevalent toward the end of February. As a result, Professor Otto Klotz, of Ottawa; Professor Cleveland Abbe, of Washington; Mr. Charles Carpmal, F. R. A. S., and others have pressed upon the attention of the Astronomical and Physical Society of Toronto the desirability of

carefully investigating these phenomena, a work in which it is expected the cable and telegraph companies will assist. The Society has appointed a committee, with Mr. R. F. Stupart, Acting-Director of the Toronto Observatory, as chairman, to consider the matter.

During June, Mercury will be an evening star, rising on the 1st at 5 a. m., and setting at 8.55 p. m., and rising on the 21st at 6.13 a. m., and setting at 9.29 p. m. Hence, this planet will during the latter half of the month be well situated for observation in the early evenings. On the 22nd, he will have reached his greatest elongation east, being 25½ degrees distant from the sun. During the first half of June he will present a gibbous disc, and during the latter half, a crescent form. After the 15th, this brilliant red sparkler may be looked for after sunset in the west. If not easily recognized, an opera glass will be useful to distinguish him in the twilight. Later on, he may be readily picked up by anyone familiar with his appearance. A small telescope should show him with a disc. Those who have never seen Mercury, and can do so, should certainly not lose this opportunity. On the night of the 15th, his position will be close to the 3rd magnitude star Delta Geminorum.

Venus will be a morning star during June, rising at 2.29 a. m. on the 1st, and setting at 3.45 p. m. On the 21st, she will rise at 2.07 a. m., and set at 4.25 p. m., or in daylight.

Mars is still a morning star but will change to evening star by the end of June. On the first he will rise at 1 a. m. and set at noon. On the 21st, he will rise about midnight and still set about noon. During the earlier half of the month, his position will be near ϕ and ψ Aquarii. In appearance, he will be gibbous, and indeed more so than at any other time in 1894. He will be in quadrature with the sun on the 17th, and during June will move from Aquarius across