

THE DOG STAR.

Charles-Eric about Sirius and his attendant worlds.

Richard A. Proctor in Youth's Companion. During the winter months one star can be seen to the right of the glorious Orion, but lower down, which shines more splendidly than any other star in the heavens—though not quite equal in brightness to either of the two planets, Jupiter and Venus. It is Sirius, the dog star, and has in all ages excited the admiration of all observers.

When you have learned what Sirius really is, you will see how unlikely it is that he can have changed color within two thousand years—a period which seems long to us, but is really nothing in the life-time of a star.

But what is Sirius? Does the telescope, which seems to bring far objects near, tell us anything about him, as it does about Jupiter, Saturn and the other planets? The telescope scarcely tells us anything. The largest yet made by man only shows Sirius as a very bright star. Sir William Herschel tells us that when his great telescope, with its four-foot mirror, was turned toward Sirius the approach of the star toward the field of view reminded him of the approach of day-break.

Yet, for all this, we know quite well what Sirius is. He is a sun like ours, only very much larger. He lies about eight hundred thousand times farther from us than the sun; and we know that if the sun were set eight hundred times farther away than he, we would only look like a star, and not a very bright star either. In fact, he would only just be fairly visible on a dark and clear night. He would be very faint indeed compared with Sirius, shining only with about one two-hundredth part of that star's light.

There is yet another way of forming an idea of the vast size of that globe, which yet, owing to its enormous distance, looks like a bright point in our skies. The moon travels at a distance from the earth of nearly 240,000 miles. Now the diameter of the sun is about 840,000 miles; so that if the earth were set at the centre of the sun and the moon traveled at its present distance from her, the whole of the moon's orbit would lie far within the globe of the sun.

It may seem surprising, but yet it is true that although astronomers have not been able to see, still less to measure, the globe of Sirius, they have yet learned what it is made of—at any rate they know some of its materials. For instance they know quite certainly that there is iron in it (in the form of gas), and sodium and magnesium, and here and there enormous quantities of the gas called hydrogen. How this has been learned I could not very well explain here.

And this leads me to consider a curious discovery that has been made about this glorious sun. Of course it is to be supposed that Sirius, like our sun, has a family of worlds traveling round him. This set observers looking for any companion body which might travel round Sirius. For they saw that any such body, to explain the movements of Sirius, must be very large, though of course they expected only to find it much fainter than Sirius himself.

panion. At last a fine telescope, with a glass eighteen and one-half inches in diameter, made by the celebrated optician, Alvin Clarke, of Cambridge, Mass. showed a faint star close by Sirius—that is, seemingly close, for in reality it was found to be at the very least two thousand million of miles from him. Later the French astronomer, Goldschmidt, with a much smaller telescope, claimed to have detected five other companion stars, and I was recently told by Professor Pritchett, of Glasgow, Mo., that with a fine twelve-inch telescope, manufactured by Alvin Clarke, he had seen two of these. He could not understand, however, how Goldschmidt could have seen them with a smaller telescope, as they were among the faintest stars he had been able to detect with his powerful instrument.

How a Statesman Controlled His Temper. When M. de Persigny was French Minister of the Interior, he received a visit one day from a friend, who, on sending up his name, was shown into the great man's sanctum. A warm discussion arose between them. Suddenly an usher entered and handed the minister a note. On opening it he at once changed the tone of his voice, and assumed a quiet and urbane manner.

"You have," said he, "just handed to the minister a note, folded up, which had a most extraordinary effect upon him. Now, it was a plain sheet of paper, with nothing written upon it. What did it mean?" "Sir," replied the usher, "here is the explanation, which I must beg you to keep secret, for I do not wish to compromise myself. My master is very warm and very liable to lose his temper. As he himself is aware of his weakness, he has ordered me, each time that his voice raises sufficiently to be audible in the ante room, without delay to place a sheet of paper in an envelope and take it to him. That reminds him that his temper is getting the better of him, and he at once calms himself. Just now I heard his voice rising, and immediately carried out my instructions."

The Law of Libel. The bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Fraser for the amendment of the law of libel assimilates the law to that now in force in England. At present in this Province a newspaper, reporting a meeting in good faith, is held liable for libellous language that may be used by any of the speakers and embodied in the report. By Mr. Fraser's bill a fair report of a public meeting will be recorded as privileged and it will be a sufficient justification in answer to an action for libel on account of any language reported to show that the words were used at a public gathering and that the party aggrieved was accorded the opportunity to publish a correction of any misstatements.

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James Heale. Maker and seller, Goderich. Waggons, Carriages, Victoria-St., Corner of Trafalgar. SEGMILLER CHILLED PLOUGH and Agricultural Implement.

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1500 CORDS OF WOOD. Delivered at the Railway Station, for which the highest cash price will be paid. JAS. A. MCINTOSH, Square, Goderich, Nov. 24, 1881. \$72 A WEEK. \$13 a day at home easily made. Costly outfit free. Address Adams & Co., Augusta, Maine.

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Agents Wanted. Big Pay. Light Work. Constant employment for Capital required. JAMES LEE & Co. Montreal, Quebec.

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UNCLE TOM

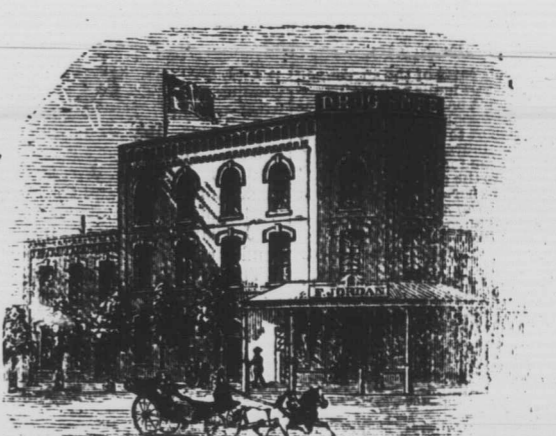
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Woodpeckers were about late weeks. Rather early.

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Dunlop. Woodpeckers were about late weeks. Rather early.

Ben Miller. The following shows the standing of the pupils of S. S. No. 2, Colborne, for the month of January.

Leeburn. Mr. P. Kelly is home again, bringing cheer and good-nature.

Colborne. COUNCIL MEETING. The Municipal Council of Colborne met in the Town Hall, on Wednesday, 1st February, 1882.

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ZOPESA.

The New Compound, its wonderful affinity to the Digestive Apparatus and the Liver, increasing the dissolving juices, relieving almost instantly the dreadful results of dyspepsia, indigestion, and the TORPID LIVER, makes Zopesa an every day necessity in every house.

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Nothing but First Class Material Used, AND A Good Fit Guaranteed. WM CAMPBELL. Goderich, Feb. 10th. 1882.

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JOHN C. DETLOR & CO. Just Received a Choice Stock of West of England Tweeds and Overcoatings. B. McCORMAC CUTTER.

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Special Bargains in Teas at Very Low Prices. 25c. per lb and upwards. If you want a really fine Tea try my 50c Young Hyson, it is a splendid article and worth more money. I have also a just opened out a complete assortment of

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FURS! FURS! FURS!! J C DETLOR & CO. LADIES' MANTLES CUT FREE OF CHARGE.

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"Now I'm going to show you why I struck out for myself." I had been driving a mile or two with my cheery friend, Dr. Mary Stedman, and until that moment was unaware of any motive for the ride other than the usual one of pleasure to us both.

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"No other way, sis," she replied; "but we will do the best we can. There's no telling what a good rest and careful nursing may do for your poor tired-body, my dear."

These troublesome complaints may be speedily cured by Hagar's Yellow Oil the great Rheumatic remedy, which, as an external application and as an internal remedy has a wider range of usefulness than any similar preparation in the world. All druggists sell it. 25c. (2)

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