The Transit of Venus.

Also Other Matters of Interest Concerning the Planets.

Venus will be the evening star until December 6, and morning star the rest of the month. There will be no hesitation in determining which of the planets leads the list, for the movements of Venus are more important than those of all the other planets combined, or indeed of any other celestial event, even the advent of another comet exceeding in proportion our present august visitor. On the 6th the grand epoch occurs, for then the planet, reaching her inferior conjunction, makes a transit over the sun's No intelligent person who realizes its importance will fail to do as much toward the celebration of the rare event as to follow the planet's course, with the aid of a piece of smoked glass, at some time during the passage. It is the simplest signt imaginable, a tiny black dot making its way over the sun, but the solution of the great problem of the sun's distance may hinge on the seemingly unimportant occurrence. Venus will appear on the sun's limb over the whole United States at nearly the same mo ment of absolute time, at about 8:55 o'clock in the morning; she will leave it and the transit will end about 3 o'clock, Washington mean time. The tables of Venus are not quite perfect, and therefore the predicted time may differ a minute or two from the observed time. Such is the importance at tached by astronomers to the transit that millions of dollars will probably be appropriated by the governments of different countries and spent by priphenomenon. Scientific observers will be numbered by thousands, while no figures can campute the labor and painstaking involved in the intricate processes that enter into the mathe matical calculations. All that the most sanguine astronomers expect to accomplish is the right to add or sub tract less than the tenth of a second from the sun's parallax as now received, though this infinitesimal angular error represents something like a half million miles in the solar distance. At half the stations in the most favorable localities, the weather will prevent ob servation, but at the other half, all that human power can do in wresting the secrets of the sun will be accomplished, and the only opportunity that will occur for 123 years will be im-proved. After the transit, we shall lose the fairest of the stars from the evening sky, only for a short time. In a few days she will reappear in the East as a morning star; at the close of the month she will be a superb object in the morning sky, rising two hours and a half before the sun, and sharing with the comet, if the celestial visitor has not left for parts unknown, in the chief attractions of the celestial view. Venus sets now a few minutes before 5 o'clock in the evening; at the end of the mouth she rises about 4:45 in the

morning.

December presents an exceptionally beautiful programme for planetary students. Venus leads off with a grand transit and conjunction. Jupiter comes next in reaching, on the 18th, the most important epoch of his course, opposition with the sun, when the eastern sky seems to glow as he comes above the horizon. Saturn pursues the even tenor of his way high up among the stars. Mars shows a throb of life as he arrives at conjunction with the sun, and gives promise of some time reaching opposition, when his tiny moon will come into serve the title of messenger of the gods. The conjunction of Venus, Mercury, and Mars with the sun and with each other shows how near they are to the great luminary and show how nearly their tracks touch each other. Once more, our neighbor, the moon, tries to prove that she is not a member of the ad world brotherhood to which she has been ruthlessly consigned. Trouvelot adds his weighty authority to the theory that there are evidences of movement on the lunar dise. This keen-eyed, reliable observer has seen lunar landscapes lose their distinct-ness as if light clouds were floating over them and two of the great craters illuminated with a rare vapor slightly tinged with purple. Here are indications of an atmosphere of some kind, conflicting with established belief. But the astronomical mind is receptive, and willing to accept anything new and strange on sufficient proof.

Had him there: "You have been up here before me half a dozen, times this year," said an Austin Justice, severely, to a local vagrant. "Come, now, Judge, none of that. Every time I've been here I've seen you here. You are here more than I am. People who live in glass houses should not throw

PARIS WIT: The inexpert huntssean having missed five partridges in succession, blazes away at a sixth and cries exultingly to the gamekeeper: "There! I hit him! I saw the feathers fly! Didn't they?' The gamekeeper:
"Yes, sir. they flew—they flew off with

AS SEEN FROM SALT RIVER.

Halstead on the Situation-Blaine Knows Nothing About It.

Wreathed in smiles, and apparently content with himself and all humani-Mr. Murat Halstead, managing editor of the Cincinnati Commercial, was found at the Brevoort House by a reporter for the Star yesterday after-

"I'm afraid I haven't got much to say about the election," began Mr. Halstead. "There was a huge storm. There is no news in that, as you know; hut it's all over now and the Demo-

crats ought to be satisfied."
"So they are. By the way, Mr. Halstead, what is your opinion as to the Presidential election in 1884? Are you among those who consider that, with such a sweeping majority behind him, and with a good record as Gover-nor, Grover Cleveland occupies the first place on the list of candidates

"A great deal of good and bad work can be accomplished between now and 1884. I don't care much for politics myself, but if you wish me to answer that question frankly in my wn way I will say that I am of the pinion that your Democratic memers of Congress are almost certain to make opportunities for their opponents. I don't know, though; it's a little too soon to survey the field."

"Have you heard any names menioned for the Presidency in your

"Oh, yes. Why, my dear sir, there are hosts of them. The great storm had its origin in Ohio, you know, and Judge Hoadly is worthy of the high-est consideration of the Democracy. Then there is our mutual frtend, Ben. Butler. You certainly can not afford to overlook him, for 20,000 of a majoriy in puritanical Massachusetts is not o be laughed at. There, you see, you have at once two very prominent Democratic candidates for the Presidency. But you must not and can not undersetimate Grooer Cleveland's unparalled majority, so that already you ave actually three gentlemen, one of whom might receive the suffrages of the people. Goodness knows ow many more aspirants may appear

"Now, Mr. Halstead, having treated is to a solid list of Democratic candidates, can you not suggest some Reublicans who are equally anxious for

the high honor?"
"Oh, well, as you said a while ago, there are no Republicans to be found ust now. I dare say we will have to leave a blank, so that we can fill it in at leisure," and he indulged in a hear

Of course there will have to be a eorganization of the Republican par-

"Necessarily so. There can be no uestion about the fact that the Republican party, or at least a portion of it, has been inclined to be despotic, and they found out when too late that it was a ruinous policy. There is only one way that I can see out of the dilemma, and that is to bring obout a thorough reorganization of the Republican party proper, for it can not afford to have a party within the party. There is where the vital mistake ex-

"You spoke just now of the probability of the Democratic Congress affording opportunities to their opponents. They are greatly in the ma-ority, and having the interest of the country at heart, is it not natural to expect that they will be careful to make for themselves a good record upon which to go before the people?"

"The very fact of their having a majority is where I would look for weakness," was the reply. "There will be no restraint, and they are likely to plunge ahead. But I do not the readers of the Sunday Star in any way, then I shall consider myself sufficiently recompensed."

Imperiously but kindly gazing upon one of the diminutive clerks of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, ex-Secretary James G. Blaine was yesterday accosted by a reporter for the Star.

"How are you saiisfied with the election, Mr. Blaine?"

The statesman from Maine cast a glance at the interrogator sufficiently withering to knock an ordinary man out, and blinking both eyes, loftily answered:

"Thoroughly satisfied. Are you?" "Perfectly, Mr. Blaine. I would like to ask you a question or two as to what effect it will have on the Rep—" "Don't know anything about it,

"Will any attempt be made to re-

"It is stated that an attempt will be made to reor-"Very likely," without waiting to hear the finish of the question. "How do you account for the large

"Can't account for anything sir," came the curt reply, as, wrapping his tighly fitting overcoat about him and buttoning his Bernhardt satin-colored gloves, Mr. Blaine, of Maine, turned on his heel and sailed out into the street with rapid stride. It is understood that he left to dine with Dwight Townsend, who was so gloriously beaten by Perry Belmont.

Beecher's Power of Mimicry.

From the Hartford Courant.

Mr. Beecher told a pretty hard "fishstory" to his people at the Plymouth prayer meeting last Friday ovening. He said that whenever his father went down to Guilford, Con., to visit his wife's relatives, he used to think of nothing

but finding a good place to catch trout.

In a certain pool there was a particularly large trout, and for several years the old gentleman vainly tried to hook him. Finally, during one of his annual visits he saw the old trout's fins stick-ing out of the water in a larly large trout, and for several ing out of the water in a shady spot under the bank. The reverend angler bethought him that he had heard or read that fish could be tickled and captless fish and slightly tickled the belly with his finger tips. It shot a little distance off, but returned almost immediately, and Pere Beecher moved his hands lightly along its scales until ap-proaching his gills he slipped his fore-finger in and jerked the surprised trout high and dry upon the bank. The fish weighed three pounds. Mr. Beecher told this story with such dramatic force and so cleverly imitated the old gentle-man peering in the pool and reaching his arm down in the water that he pulled it up a rustle of excitement was no-ticeable in the meeting. Mr. Beecher's unconscious mimicry in another part of his discourse led him to make a pose and grimace which would have delighted one of his caricaturists. He said his Friday night congregation was like a brood of callow robins sitting in a nest with eyes shut and mouths open waiting for him to drop in a worm. Mr. Beecher shut his own eyes, opened his mouth to the fullest and sat for a moment with face upturned, looking as much like a young robin as was possible for a gentleman of his sge and full

"Husband Owns It."

How a Connecticut Girl Got Rid of a

A modest, pretty looking girl, apparently about 18 years of age, while riding in a horsecar the other day, was greatly annoyed by a well dressed young man who was determined to scrape an acquaintance with her. This young man was of the "masher" class and only had his good clothes and his impudence to recommend him two qual ities which often go together and which ere not passports to the sociability. The masher had taken a seat by her

The masher had taken a sent by her side, although there was room enough for him to have maintained a respect tal distance. He tried to engage her in a conversation about the residence as they rode along, but the girl, thoroughly annoyed and vexed at his familiarit annoyed and vexed at his familiarity, would simply give the name of the owner and relapse into silence. But the masher, nothing daunted by the curt answers, kept on with his questions.

Finally they neared the fine residence which Mr. W. P. Husband purchased a few months ago on Westhers Held and

rew months ago on Weathersfield avenue, and the rude fellow, after remarking upon the place, asked the girl if she knew the owner. The girl's eyes sparkled with a mischevious twinkle and she blushed prettil as she frankly answered. Husbard ownsit. The masher's feet. "Husband owns it." The masher's face, as he tried to paddle his way out of the dilemma gracefully, was a picture to gaze at. The idea that this very young girl could have a husband evidently had never entered his head. The few passen gers who had witnessed the scene en-joyed his confusion and laughed out-right as he hurriedly slid from the car and started to "hoof it" up town. There is something in a name after all.

The Iron Industry.

Exaggerated Reports of the Temporary Depression, Pittsburg, November 22—The iron

manufacturers of this city in general do not agree with eastern manufacturers who are disposed to indulge in gloomy specula ions in re, a dto the future of the iron and steel trade. A large number of the most prominent manufacturers were interviewed to day and none an-ticipated any serious break. The mills here are all doing a fair business and the contrary the nail manufacturers are very busy and plenty of orders are com-ing in. In regard to the Bessemer scare a prominent manufacturer stated that there was a good profit in Bessemer rails at forty cents per ton, reports to the contrary notwithstanding, and that the rails could be made for \$32, leaving \$8 of a margin for profit. B. F. Keating, vice president of the iron association, speaking on the same subject, says the Bessemer men had made large profits but now when an over production has come they find their profits lessened and their first, object is to reduce the price. their first object is to reduce the price of labor. In order to do this they are endeavoring to show the entire bottom has dropped out of the business. Another point they have is to influence legislation and prevent any further reduction of rates on steel rails. tion of rates on steel rails.

Worth Preserving.

Says the Philadelphia Record of Mon-day: "A gentleman residing in the northren part of the city, whose two lit-tle daughters were dying last Thursday of diphtheria, saw in The Record of that day a communication commending the use of sulphur in cases of diphtheria. As a last resort he made a trial of it, using washed flowers of sulphur and applying it directly to the membraneous growth in the throats of the children by means a common class vive. The effect was of a common clay pipe. The effect was almost magical. Within two hours there was almost complete relief, and in two days the children, who had been given up by their physician, had completely recovered. While it is not reasonable to rely entirely upon sulphur in the ills that beset childhood, it is doubtful if these had been given. there has ever been a proper recognition of its value as a destroyer of morbid or beaten by Perry Belmont.

OLD age is to be respected in almost everything, excepting perhaps, spring phur, should be used, not the powdered chickens

An Awkward Predicament.

Jamaica Plain Republican told his wife before the election that if Massachusetts went Democratic he would chusetts went Democratic ne would leave the State, and added that he meant it, too. Upon waking the morning after the election he remark-ed that his olfactories were not greeted with the usual odors from the kitchen, and going to the door he called his wife to inquire the cause, noting at the same time that preparations to move were apparently going on down stairs. She informed him quietly that the State had gone Democratic, and he called savagely for a paper that he ured with the hand. He softly slipped might know the worst. It was brought a hand in the water under the motion to him, and he was closeted with it for some time, then coming to the door he shouted to his wife, "Get the breakfast. Mary ; no matter about moving, there isn't any place to go to."-Boston Post

More Bear Than Law.

When Gratiot county first began to be disturbed by pioneers, and soon af-ter it had its first justice of the peace, a farmer named David-on walked three miles to secure a warrant for the arrest of his neighbor named Meacham, for assault and battery. To save the constable a three mile trip the defen dant walked with the plaintiff. They encountered his honor just leav-ing his house with his gun on his shoulder, and Davidson halted him:

"Squar', I want a warrant for this man for striking me. "I'm in an awful hurry-come to morrow.

'So 'm in a hurry, and I'm going to have a risin' to morrow. "Meacham, did you hit him?"

"Davidson, did you strike first?"

"Meacham, had you rather work for him three days than go to jail?

"I guess so. "And will that satisfy you, David-

"Then make tracks for home and don't bother me another minute! son just came in with the news that an old bear and three cubs are up on the same beach down at the end of the dashing, and I'm goin' to have sor bear meat if it upsets the supreme bench of Michigan. Court's adjourn

AGAINST JUDGE ADVOCATES. - There is a movement on foot to have a bil introduced in Congress at the nex session abolishing the corps of judy es-advocate in the army. The promoters of this scheme claim that the pre ent system of trials by military court martial is very defective and needs thorough overhauling. It is propose to abolish the corps outright and g an officer, with the rank of majo whose duty it shall be to review the proceedings of courts-martial after they have been forwarded to the adjutant-general of the army. In fact the idea is to establish a bureau in the War Department where the proceed-ings of courts-martial will be passed upon. An officer of high rank, who favors the above-named change, says under the present system courts-martial are transformed into mere police courts; the innocent are punished and the guilty are allowed to go free.'

A PROMINENT treasury official, who is well posted on matters pertaining to the tariff, said to-day that the duty on sugar and other staple articles could be reduced without seriously effecting the financial condition of the country, and he had been informed that an effort would be made in that direction during the next session of Congress. He claimed that the present tariff on silks, velvets and other luxuries should ly to plunge ahead. But I do not care to discuss the matter more fully now, for you must admit that it is a little premature. If I have gratified the readers of the Sunday Star in any ment should always keep a certain quaintity of government bonds outstanding, however low the rate of in-terest may be. The people have unlimited confidence in the credit of the government, as was shown in their willingness to exchange their 5 per bonds for 31 and 3s. He says there is no necessity for imposing such high rates of tariff on articles that are absolutely required in sustaining life.

Bumbleton had a severe strain on his conscience the other day. He aims to be the most honest of critics, and on being asked by the father of an animated fog-horn how he liked his daughter's voice, he replied: sings like a Patti(under his breath)

A MAN pays 30 cents for three pounds of evaporated apples and gets a \$14 newspaper puff for sending them to an orphan asylum. Does he gain or lose, and how much?

THE London and Northwestern mailway Company have bought 500 cows to supply the best milk at their buffets."—Ex. [Why not use their cowcatchers and correl 'em that way.]

A Young gilded (or, as they say now, nickel-plated) youth of New York ordered a pair of pantalogus of his tailor and returned them as too tight. "You told me to make them skin tight," said the man, "Yes," said the youth, "but I can sit down in my skin and I can, tin these."

The snob who wears an eyeglass for the looks of the thing might as well walk lame for the same purpose.

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