# POINTERS ON COMETS

Interesting Facts That Were Unearthed by Bill Nye.

#### HIS STUDY OF SKY SCIENCE.

The Humorist's Researches Shed a Flood of Brilliant Light Upon the Peculiar Traits of the "Astronomical Parodies on the Planets."

The famous American humorist, Bill Nye, wrote the following article on the traits of comets for the San Francisco Argonaut, in which it was published a number of years ago:

The comet is a kind of astronomical parody on the planet. Comets look some fille planets, but they are thin, ner and do not burt so hard when they hit auvie dy as a planet does. The comet was so called because it had hair on it. I believe, but of late years the baidbended comet is giving just as good satisfaction everywhere.

The characteristic features of the comet are a nucleus, a nebulous light or comm and usually a luminous train or tall worn high. Sometimes several talls are observed on one comet, but this occurs only in flush times.

When I was young I used to think I would like to be a comet in the sky. up above the world so high, with nothing to do but loaf around and play with the little new laid planets and have a good time, but now I can see where i was wrong. Comets also have their troubles, their perihelions, their hyperbolas and their parabolas. A little over 300 years ago Tycho Brahe discovered that comets were extraneous to our atmosphere, and since then times have improved. I can see that trade is steadler and potatoes run less to tops than they did before.

Soon after that they discovered that comets all had more or less periodici-Nobody knows how they get it. All the astronomers had been watching them day and night and didn't know when they were exposed, but there was no time to talk and argue over the question. There were 200 or 300 comets all down with it at once It was an exciting time.

Comets sometimes live to a great age. This shows that the night air is not so injurious to the health as many people and have us believe. The great comet of 1680 is supposed to have been the one that was noticed about the time of Caesar's death, 44 B. C., and still when it appeared in Newton's time, 1,700 years after its first grand farewell tour, Ike said that it was very well preserved indeed and seemed to have retained all its faculties in good shape.

A late writer on astronomy said that the substance of the nebulosity and the tail is of atmost inconceivable tennity. He said this, and then death came to his relief.

Another writer says of the comet and its tail that "the curvature of the latter and the acceleration of the periodic time in the case of Eucke's comet indicate their being affected by a resisting medium which was never been observed to have the slightest influence on the plauetary periods."

I do not fully agree with the emineal suttority, though he may be right. Much fear has been the result of the comet's appearance ever since the world began, and it is as good a thing to worry about as anything I know of If we could get close to a comet without frightening it away we

## THE TERRIBLE BATHOLITE.

Molten Rock That Bores Upward Through the Earth's Crust.

Batholite is a term invented by the great German geologist Eduard Suess to describe the gigantic intrusions of molten rock which, according to him, bore their way upward through the crust of the earth from the "eternal depths" below, cutting through the strata and folds of the mountains very much as a white bot soldering from may be thrust through a plank, burning its way across the grain of the wood as if it were cheese.

These batholites link deep in the earth, where the temperature is thousands of degrees, and gradually melt their way to the surface above them. Generally they issue in the form of tremendous domes of hot rock, towering up to mountain heights and often giving birth to volcanoes. When a batholite, as sometimes happens, does not reach the surface its roof opens in a network of fissures, lava pours out and a whole group of volcanoes appears at that point.

Suess has recognized the remains of many cooled batholites on various parts of the earth's surface, and be says that the consolidated crust of the earth, even at the present day, may be exposed to these mighty intrusions from below. The batholites bring up with them many metals from the interior of the planet, and rich mines are often opened in the dikes that are thus formed.

Suess describes the rock about Boulder, Colo., as an ancient batholite. which covers 5,000 square kilometers of surface. But there are others still more prodigious in extent.

Sometimes they have been worn down nearly to the general level, but near Eikhorn the old batholite yet towers up to an elevation of 9.000 feet above the sea. The diamond dikes of South Africa have thus been thrust up from the profound depths of the earth. where there exists a laboratory of nature in which she performs what seem miracles to the petty lubabitants of the planet's surface.

The face of the moon shows us most clearly what batholites are capable of. The vast circular plains ringed with steep mountains, which make its surface so marvelous to look upon with a telescope, have, according to this view. been formed by intrusions of colossal batholites, and Suess calls them by the startling name of "smelting furnaces"-furnaces thousands of square miles in extent-in which the frame of that little world has been melted and dissolved like a snow bank lying in the path of a flow of molten iron.

And if we could remove the sedl mentary accumulations of ages from the face of our world, says this astonishing German savant, we might find now hidden under our feet a network of the seared skeletons of ancient batholites, grander than any on the moonl-Garrett P. Serviss in New York American.

Von Moltke's Simplicity. Once while traveling General Moltke entered a small Swiss hotel, and as the bead waiter saw his gaunt figure stalking in, wrapped in a wornout, dusty cloak, carrying an old leather satchel, he measured his wealth by his looks and ordered his assistant to show him to a small room in the uppermost story. As he was making himself comfortable in the attic another assistant came, as is customary there, to ask the silent stranger his name and rank The consequence was that a few minutes later the proprietor, in full dress, oor of the attic to it form his excellency that a better room \$15.-San Francisco Chronicle. had just been vacated. "Give that to my servant," replied Moltke, "when he comes with my carriage. This is good enough for me." And he remained.

### THE LEGISLATIVE JOKER.

Easy Way In Which the Intent of a Law May Be Changed.

"A joker in its simplest form consists in a word or a clause which, introduced into proposed legislation, filches away from the public its power to establish such laws as it desires, either by emasculating an enactment or by perverting the essence and purpose of it." So writes Samuel Hopkins Adams in American Magazine, and he cites these instances of how the joker game is worked:

"Sometimes it is in one word, as where the sale of a piece of public property to the lowest bidder was once authorized. Sometimes it may inhere in that elusive character, the comma, as in the case of the tariff clause of an old schedule providing for the free entry of fruit plants, where somebody carelessly allowed a comma to creen In between 'fruit' and 'plants,' thereby admitting millions of oranges and lemons into the country duty free and costing the treasury bundreds of thousands of dollars in loss of imports. Nobody ever found out whether this was a printer's slip or a carefully devised scheme. Certain it is that the framers of the schedule never intended it.

"Again, the entire body of the proviso may constitute the joker by purporting to carry one meaning when it in reality carries quite another. Congress still preserves the tradition of the Irish representative from Massachusetts who proposed that March 17 be made a legal holiday in celebration of the 'Boston tea party.' Several New Englanders whose zeal exceeded their erudition warmly supported the measure until some one pointed out that March 17 was much more closely associated with the supposed birth of the proposer's patron saint than with the destruction of the obnoxious tea. which latter, indeed, was a midwinter festival."

### SWISS DIVORCE CASES.

The Court Always Tries to Settle Them by Reconciliation.

In one important respect the Swiss surpass other nations in the management of their divorce cases, says an English correspondent.

In every town there is a kind of othcial paper known as the Feuille d'Avis, in which one may read daily the following announcement:

"M. and Mme, X., who are in instance of divorce, are requested to appear privately before the judge, alone or with their lawyers, in order to come to a reconcillation if possible."

Before the beginning of every divorce case in Switzerland this notice is published and sent out to the interested parties, leaving the couple, of course, free to attend before the judge or not, as they wish. Often the couple meet.

Although there are no statistics published on the subject, I am told by a leading lawyer in Geneva whose specialty is divorce cases that at least 30 per cent of divorce cases-"much to my loss' unfortunately," the lawyer added, with a smile-are settled by the paternal advice of the judge at these meetings out of court.

In fact, Swiss lawyers will not definitely take up a divorce case until it has passed through the reconciliation If one of the couple does not attend

the rendezvous this means that the affair is to be fought out, but in any case Swiss divorces are not expensive.

The average cost in a contested case is \$200, often \$100, and the lowest

### THEIR FINAL QUARREL

She Said It Was Irravocable, but He Knew Botter.

If was all off. They had quarreled. finally and irrevocably it doesn't matter now what it was about. The chances are that in their anger neither remembered anything except that he und desappointed her in some awful, unforgivable way and she had seized the diamond engagement ring from a dainty, slender finger and thrust lt upon him with a gesture of infinite SCOPH.

For an instant he held the circlet in his hand ruefully. For another instant he paced the porch, bands in his pockets, head low, his volce oulvering with emotion as he pleaded. Suddenly he stopped in front of her.

"That's final, is it?" he inquired. "Final," she replied Icily. "No man

with a spark of"-"All right!" he snapped. "This thing's no use to me, then, His right arm shot out like the arm of a ball pitcher, and a second later

the tinkle-tinkle of metal on the concrete walk half a block away told her he had thrown the ring away. "Oh!" she cried, and there was sud-

den anguish in her heart. "I didn't mean It! We must find it-at once." "I don't care for it." he said stubbornly. "Life has mighty little now to make"-

"Silly!" she cried. "Help me-immediately." He couldn't let her go alone, with

night coming on, so, after proper reluctance, he followed. In the eagerness of searching all her anger melted It took a long time, but finally be stooped quickly and exclaiming, "Here It is!" held up the diamond ring.

What happened in the next hour is nobody's business except their own The human, masculine part of the story was disclosed to his bosom friend late that night in the quiet of their room

"Had it in my pocket all the time." he said. "Threw a quarter down the street. And, and bling it, I didn't find It either!" But it did the work -- Kansas City

Times. SPLITTING A PICTURE.

One Case Where the Half Proved

Greater Than the Whole. There is no painter who lends him self to "splitting" so much as Botti celli-l, e., a division of the panel into two parts so as to form separate pie tures. Years ago I sold to a Mr. Buttery of London half a Botticelli, which is now owned by Herr Kaufmann of Berlin. I have myself seen the other half of the picture, as well as the picture in its entire state

In one case I can recall the half proved greater than the whole. A certain Signor Barili bequeathed a valu able Botticelli to his two grandsons who were twins But, although twins, these two young men were rather quarrelsome and had no taste in com mon. One proposed to sell the picture which had been painted for one of their ancestors, it is said, by Botricelli bimself. The other would not consent The first then proposed that the other should buy his share and keep the pic ture himself. He took me with him. and I assigned the value of the plcture at 5,000 fire, saying I would give that for it. The brother declined and suggested placing the picture in the custody of an aunt pending an adjustment of the terms. "Oh, very well." cried his brother, flying into a passion. "If you won't buy and won't let me sell there's only one thing to do." and before any one could interfere he emptied three chambers of a revolver into the panel, completely destroying onehalf of the composition, including a St. John and a Joseph. The picture being sent to me to restore, I could do nothing with it and strongly advised separating the panel. Shortly after 1 did so the owner died, and I disposed of the work for 6,000 lire to Adolph Knun. It is now, I believe, in Russia -E. Panzone in Strand Magazine

## Dividing Something. A farm laborer in one of the west-

ern counties was requested to vote for a candidate at the election, but he refused. Being asked for his reason, he made answer:

"Why, because them chaps be well enough paid." They then tried to explain to Hodge

that members of parliament in this country were not paid for their services. But he was not to be convinced.

"Donn't 'ee tell me!" he replied somewhat angrily. "I believe my eyes, and when I zees in the paper as they divides almost ev'ry night i knows they be dividin' summat!"-London Tit-Bits.

#### Old Scottish Words.

Here are a few quaint old Scottish words still used a good deat in East Aberdeenshire: "Mowse"-To say anything is mae mowse means it is uncanny or dangerous. "Connached"-Spolled; clean connached would mean utterly destroyed or rendered useless. "Blaud" - To blaud anything would mean to soll it. A child would be told, "Dinna blaud your clean pina." "Gardles" or "Gaurdies"-A child's forearm. The last is a very old expression, but we have heard it used. "Sic bonnie gardies he has" means the baby has plump arms.-Glasgow Herald.

#### A Straight Vote.

The secret of the ballot is sometimes too good to keep? "George." said the squire, "did you vote straight, as I told you?" "Sure, Oi did, squoire. It said on th' paper to put a X, but Ol moinded as how ye said 'voat straight.' and OI put un straight through un's naame."-London Chronicle.

Improving on Euclid. The Pioneer of Allahabad tells stories of some "kindergarten" classes in the English army. Among the definitions given in an examination is one of a circle peculiarly happy, which gives a freshness to Euclid. It is, "A straight line which starts at a certain point and gets back to the same point as quickly as possible."

#### Your Chances.

The little chances linger and return, but the great chances come and go and never come again. If we could look back over the lives of the people by whom we are surrounded, how many great and rich opportunities would we see that they have permitted to drift by them unimproved!

#### A Line on Bjenkyns.

Lawson-What sort of man is Bjenkyns, anyway? Dawson-Well, his wife always goes

with him when he buys a suit of clothes .- Somerville Journal.

#### The Consultation.

"My wife always consults me about every article of attire she buys-frocks. hats, shoes, gloves, everything." "My wife does, too-that is, she asks me for the money."

#### Sartorial.

"Ever go to that tailor?" "Yes. Most expensive man. I got two suits from him-a dress suit and a lawsuit."-Lippincott's.

#### Livingstone.

Of Dr. Livingstone it was said by Stanley that the missionary lived for years among the most cruel and ignorant savages in the world, but he never fired a shot in anger, never "clubbed or clouted or banned or blasted." His manner was that of a "cool

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

For Congress-

J. N. LANGHAM,

Of Indiana.

Subject to the action of the Republicans of the 17th Congressional District, at the primary election, Saturday, June 4th, 1910.

For Congress-

GEN. HARRY WHITE Of White Twp., Indiana Co.,

Subject to the action of the Republicans of the 27th Congressional District, at the primary election Satarday, June 4th, 1910.

### For Assembly-

S. TAYLOR NORTH Of Punxsutawney. Subject to action of the Republicans of Jefferson county at the primary election to be held June 4, 1910.

#### For Assembly-

HENRY I. WILSON,

Of Big Run, Subject to the action of the Republican voters of Jefferson county at the primary election to be held June 4, 1910.

#### For Assembly-

JAMES G. MITCHELL Of Perry Township.

J.

Subject to the action of the Republican voters of Jefferson county at the primary election to be held June 4, 1910. Endorsed by the Anti-Saloon League of the county, state and nation.

For Assembly-

#### WILLIAM A. CALHOUN,

Of Falls Creek.

Subject to the action of the Republican voters of Jefferson county at the primary election to be held June 4, 1910. Endorsed by the Anti-Saloon League of the county, state and nation.

### EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of the late Mrs. Sarah Weish, of Reynoldsville.

Reynoldsville. Notice is hereby given that letters testa-mentary on the estate of Mrs. Sarah Welsh, late of Reynoldsville borough, county of defersion and state of Pennsylvania, de-ceased, have been granted to the under-signed, to whom all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims or demands will make known the same without delay. U. J. KERR, Executor.

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would find that we could walk through it anywhere as we could through the glare of a torchlight procession. We should so live that we will not be ashamed to look a comet in the eye. bowever Let us pay up our newspaper subscription and lead such lives that when the comet strikes we will be re. dy.

Some worry a good deal about the chances for a big comet to plow into the sun some dark, rainy night and thus cust up the whole universe. I wish that was all i had to worry about the comet's crashing into the sua and knocking its daylights out,

There is much in the great field of as tomomy that is discouraging to the savant who hasn't the time of means to Junamage through the beavens At times 1 are almost hopeness and feel like saying to the great, yearnful, hun gry world

"Grope on forever Do not usk me for another scientific fact. Find it out yourself flunt up your own new laid planets and let me have a rest. Never ask me again to sit up all night and take care of the newborn world while you lie in bed and reck not."

#### Pecketed the Silver.

There is an amusing anecdote rea. ding Lord Crewe how on one ocra ... at a charitable entertainment be leaved against a corridor wall and went fast asleep with his but in his ht d. Some young blows started dr oping half crowns and coppers into the bar from a balcony above, and the el juk of the coins woke him up, when he promptly pocketed all the silver and petter his impromptu benefactors w. h the pence.-London M. A. P.

#### A Wink In the Dark.

Photo was to be an attack by night The darkness was impenetrable. A OWS: "Now, pay attintion, No. 2 sle We are going to do a night at-There'll be no talking or smoking if there are any orders to be passed down 1 will just the you the wink "

It is a great misfortune not to have mind enough to speak well ar judg-

#### The Silks of Samarkand,

The silks and velvets of Samarkand long famous for the rainbow biending of their colors, have a season, exactlylike fruits or garden truck, and can only be purchased at that particular time of the year. When the worms are ready for spinning they are all brought to the silk bazaar and sold. The slik iss then spun and dyed, and all that is not used in the maker's family is exported in the form of cloth. Thus, unless you happen to be in Samarkand during the season, it is all but impossible to find any of the native silk for sale except in the form of ready made khalats. which are a sort of glorified dressing gown.-E. A. Powell in Everybody's

#### Cordially Invited.

Glasgow invitations are nothing if not hearty. Two friends met after a fairly long separation.

"Man, Tam," says one, "whaur in a the airth hae ye been hidin' yerse!'? I havena seen ye for an age."

"Weel, Jeems, I've been doon Gourock way a guid while. Come doon an see me sume. I've got a set of good boxing gloves, an' if ye come doon any day I'll knock the face all ye."-London Tit-Bits.

### The Other Way.

"You may pay me \$100 down and \$25 a week," said the physician offhand. "Sounds as if I were buying an auto mobile," the patient said. "No," said the doctor thoughtlessly:

"I am."-Buffalo Express.

Didn't Follow Directions. "Buttin seems rather sore on you old man."

Yes; he annoyed me yesterday, and I told him to go and take a back seat." "And he took affront, eh?"-Boston Transcript.

No legacy is so rich as honesty .-

then both parties are agreed \$10

Be a Real Power in the World. It is a great thing to start out in active life with the resolution that you will not be a mere cipher in your community, but a real constructive force; that you will stand for something more than a real living getter or a dollar gatherer; that you will not be merely one more citizen, but a strong, robust, vigorous force, a power respected, a force that moves things To be known as a progressive man who stands for everything that is for the betterment ot his community, every one should be ambitious to be something as a citizen besides a specialist in his vocation .-Success Magazine.

#### The Wild Beet.

Beets were first found growing wild in sandy soils near the sea to Europe and western Asia. The wild beet still found there is regarded by authority as the original type. This wild beet is slender rooted and has a taste so different from the beet we know today that one must consider the first man who tasted one and thought it possible to develop had gifts of hope and imagination far beyond ordinary. The beet has been cultivated since 200-300 B. C.

#### Handicapped.

The second Duke of Wellington was handicapped through life by his father's fame. Rernal Oshorne once asked him why with his undoubted taients he made no effort to shine in public affairs. The duke replied: "If you had sat so long as I have under the shadow of a great tree you would be as coloriess as 1 am."

#### Too Clever.

Hotel Clerk-Let me see. You're the Mr. Barne who acts Romeo, aren't you? I think I've seen you climb down from Juliet's balcony. Barne-I am that famous actor, sir, Hotel Clerk -Cash in advance, please. You climb too well for any other terms.-New York Journal.

The love of beauty is taste; the creation of beauty is art - Emerson.

#### Too Lavish.

Mrs. Dobbs was trying to find out the likes and dislikes of her new boarder, and all she learned increased her satisfaction.

"Do you want ple for breakfast?" she asked

"No. 1 thank you." said the new boarder, with a smile. "Pie for break fast seems a little too much."

"That's just the way I look at it." said Mrs. Dobbs heartly. "I say ple for dinner is a necessity, and ple for supper gives a kind o' finishing touch to the day, but ple for breakfast is what I call putting on airs."-Youth's Companion.

#### The Usual Sequel.

When they reached Montreal on their elopement Chicago seemed far, far away? and they were both homesick. "I will just telegraph the letter 'F" to father." said the beautiful bride. 'That will mean forgiveness.' "Better make it two 'F's.' " advised the young bridegroom.

"Gracious, dear! And what will two F's' mean? "Why, forgiveness and funds."-Chi cago News.

Poor Memory. "She made a borrible break at Green's dinner party the other night." "What was it?"

"Called the hostess by her first husband's name."-Detroit Free Press.

#### The Old Master.

Mistress Has unybody been to see that old oil painting I bought? Mary-No. ma'am. Somebody called to see the old marter, but I said he was out. - London<sup>8</sup> Scraps. wise old man who felt offended and -it-

kindly help a poor man as is all in, down and out? Joenlar Citizen-Why certainly. Just climb the fire escape on that skyscraper across the street and walk in on the top floor. Then you will be all out, up and in.-Judge's Library.

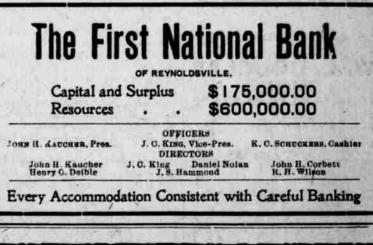
#### In Awful Shape.

"Why don't you go to work?" "I'm so dead tired of doing nothing that I'm too tired to do anything."- FUNERAL DIRECTORS.

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