

THE TELESCOPE.

Its Present Powers and Some of Its Possibilities.

The question was recently asked the writer: Is it likely that a telescope can ever be made which shall be powerful enough to show the disc of a star? Everyone who has ever looked through a telescope is aware that the appearance of a star is not changed by the instrument, except as it is rendered brighter. Even when examined through the most powerful telescopes the stars retain the appearance which they have to the naked eye. They are practically mathematical points—sources of light, having no appreciable size, even when viewed with the highest magnifying power that can be applied to them. Can astronomers hope ever to have telescopes powerful enough to exhibit them with true discs, as a very ordinary instrument will exhibit the moons of Jupiter?

A little rough calculation, designed as the basis of an answer to this question, will serve the double purpose of showing how limited the powers of even our largest telescopes really are, and of adding another illustration to the many that have been given of the enormous remoteness of the fixed stars. With a fine cambric needle one will puncture a minute hole in a slip of tinfoil, or if this is not at hand, in a sheet of paper, and will hold it before his eyes toward a strong light. By varying the size of the hole and the intensity of the light he will be able to determine experimentally the size of the smallest puncture that may be perceived distinctly as a round hole, and not merely as a star-like point of light. It will be found that for most eyes the diameter of this puncture will be about one-hundredth of an inch, the light through which it is held being not too strong and the distance from the eye being about ten inches. This may be taken as a basis of our calculation. A circle one-hundredth of an inch in diameter at a distance of ten inches, subtends an angle of a little less than four minutes, and this may be assumed as the visual angle under which a star must be seen in order that it shall appear as a miniature sun—shall present a disc, and not appear simply as a star.

The brightest of the fixed stars is Sirius. Although it is not also the nearest of the stars, it is one of the nearest, and its distance from us is fairly well known. The distance of Sirius is about 600,000 times that of the sun. Its distance being known, its size may be estimated, though, doubtless, with considerable uncertainty, from its brilliancy. We can calculate how the sun, removed to its distance, would compare with it in splendor, and as a result we are pretty safe in concluding that the diameter of the brilliant Dog star must be seven or eight times that of the sun. We shall probably be within bounds if we put its diameter, for our present purpose, at 6,000,000 miles. It is easy to calculate upon the assumption that at the distance assigned to it this star subtends an angle of about one-seventy-fifth of a second. That it shall subtend an angle of four minutes and become visible as a disc it must be magnified about 18,000 times, and if we allow to each inch of aperture of our telescope a power of 100 diameters—which is the theoretical power of a telescope, though rarely attained in practice—we can quickly figure out that its object glass must be given a diameter of 15 feet. No pretense is made here at close figuring, for we are not making proposals for the construction of the telescope, but the result is sufficiently reliable to enable us to form some idea of the likelihood of our soon possessing an instrument of this power.

Magnificent, indeed, would be a telescope of this size, provided, of course, its excellence was proportionate to its magnitude, and that all obstacles in the way of mounting such a monster—it would need to be about 300 feet in length—were successfully overcome. It is delightful for one interested in astronomy to imagine the wonderful discoveries which might at once be made with it. Not to speak of nebulae and double stars, what a field for research it to be found within our own solar system.—Boston Globe.

Canon Wilberforce tells a story of Herkomer, the great portrait painter. Herkomer has an old father, who lives with him in his splendid home at Bushey. In his early life he used to model in clay. He has taken to it again, but his fear is that soon his hands will lose their skill, and his work will show the marks of imperfection. It is his own sorrow. At night he goes to his early rest, and when he has gone Herkomer, the talented son, goes into the studio, takes up the father's feeble attempts, and makes the work as beautiful as art can make it. When the old man comes down in the morning, he takes the work and looks at it, and rubs his hands and says: "Hat I can do as well as ever I did."

VICTORIA AS A GIFT-MAKER.

She Gives to Express a Sentiment and Not to Display Her Generosity.

There is a popular impression that her majesty Queen Victoria is parsimonious, and many anecdotes are told to illustrate this phase of her character. It is true she never gives a valuable present, but usually articles that have been presented to her by other people. It is court gossip that the princess send her babies of camel's hair shawls every year because they know that her majesty uses them to advantage where she is required to make presents. It is also understood about court that a useless present to her majesty is worse than none, and people who desire to please her send gifts of money. When she dismisses a maid of honor, or when one of her ladies in waiting gets married or a faithful servant retires from her service, she always gives them a testimonial, usually of small value, a Bible, a copy of her "Journal in the Highlands," "Memoirs of the Prince Consort," perhaps a lace collar, a brooch containing her miniature, an inexpensive bracelet, a piece of silk or embroidery that has been sent her from India, or a shawl. The people around the court have ceased to expect expensive gifts from her majesty, and this peculiarity is so well understood that it ceased to be a jest among the other sovereigns of Europe a quarter of a century ago. For years the caricaturists and the paragraphers of the comic papers found it a stock subject, but if is no longer even matter of gossip.

Her majesty may be considered penurious in comparison with the extravagance of other sovereigns. She has always shown a full appreciation of the value of money, and at the same time an equal appreciation of its usefulness. In financial transactions as well as in official affairs she has shown herself to be an honorable, shrewd, prudent and far-sighted person, and while it is true, as frivolous people say, that she never wasted a shilling, she has never failed to pay an honest debt. She loses no opportunity to express her displeasure at useless extravagance, and the purpose of her economy is to furnish an example for her subjects. She regards the neglect of financial obligations as one of the most heinous of sins, and spendthrift peers and extravagant women have no places at her table, and need not expect favors at her hands. When she bestows a gift she desires to express a sentiment, and not to make an ostentatious display of generosity.—William E. Curtis, in Chautauquan.

A STRATEGIST.

A Detroit Man's Ruse for Overcoming His Sweetheart's Refusal.

"Strategy, me boy, strategy," was the exclamation of one of Detroit's club men and bachelors who is soon to become a benedict. "Seven times she refused me, but I flatter myself that I'm something of a Dewey in my way, and I kept right at her till I won out. "How in the world did you manage?" eagerly asked an old crony, who is also on the list of eligibles. "Strategy, I tell you. Simplest thing in the world when you know how," and the prospective bridegroom swelled up like a toad in a vacuum. "In the outset I made the same mistake that all of us chumps do when we fall in love after we're turning gray. I was anxious and pleading and cringing and all that sort thing. They don't like it and won't have it. You've got to be masterful and strong, or at least pretend you are. Then that clinging disposition in woman asserts itself, don't you know. You've got lots to learn, my boy, lots to learn. "After she had refused me the seventh time I got my senses and took the right tack. First I pretended to be getting letters from an old flame down east. Yes, sirl and used to read her extracts that made her look uneasy. Then I decided to go to war. All a bluff, you know. Declared that I hadn't much to live for, anyhow. Told her I would go east, say good-by to the old sweetheart of my youth and then enlist. Say, she sobbed and wept salt tears and called me cruel. I was more reckless than ever in my determination to fight Spaniards, and then we compromised on an engagement. She asks me every time we meet now whether I'm sure I'll not go to war."—Detroit Free Press.

A Matter of Equilibrium.

He was making a hollow pretense of being hungry at breakfast. "Had to stay at the office to balance the books last night, my dear," he remarked. She was gazing gloomily out of the window, and upon the lawn there were divers tracks. "I hope the books were better balanced than yourself when you got through," she answered, not without bitterness.—Detroit Journal. "It was Remarkable. "There goes Dr. Keeneen in his coach, isn't he killing?" "Yes, and he hasn't any practice to speak of, either."—Detroit Journal.

SCHOOLBOY COMPOSITIONS.

Two Novel Specimens of the English Artista.

Schoolboy humor seems inexhaustible, and there are some rather novel specimens of the English article in a book lately published by A. J. Barker, "The Comic Side of School Life." It includes several school compositions, of which we subjoin two: A VISIT TO THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

Of all the animals in this world, the Zoological Gardens is the most. You go in by a gate, and when you have got a bit way down there they are all round you. Ameriky can't be nothing to it. The lion, which is the king of all the animals wot ever lived, was so little that I shouldn't have noen it was him, only I have seen pieters, and my mother said: "Look Tom, now you can say as you've seen a lion." Why, he isn't quarter as big as a elephant, and he hasn't got no trunk. I think the elephant could master him if he liked; but the big silly won't try, coz he's so kind, and doesn't want to be king. The lion is yellor, but not so yellor as the piter book what the Board gev me. He looks at yer through the bars like as wot he was saying: "You think as you can fight, don't yer, little boy, just coz you no I can't get out all coz of this bloomin' cage. If I could only skueez through, I'd swallow you and yer mother too." I said to my mother: "I should like to hear the lion roaring," when she said: "Why, that was roaring just now when the keeper looked at him." Then I nearly cried, I was so wild; why, it wasn't like thunder and lightning' at all. It just opened its mouth wide, like as yer seed men sittin' at their doors and a gaping on Sunday afternoons, and it yoped do louder than a apple cart man does.

THE CAT.

The house cat is four-legged quadruped, the legs as usual being at the corners. It is sometimes what is called a tame animal, though it feeds on mice and birds of prey. When it is happy it does not bark, but breathes through its nose instead of its mouth, but I can't remember the name they call the noise. It is a little word, but I can't think of it, and it is wrong to copy. Cats also mew, which you have all heard. When you stroke this tame quadruped by drawing yer hand along its back, it cocks up its tail like a ruler, so as you can't get no further. Never stroke the hairs across, as it makes all cats scratch like mad. Its tail is about two foot long, and its legs about one each. Never stroke a cat under the belly, as it is very unhealthy. Don't tease cats, for, firstly, it is wrong so to do, and second, cast have clauses which is longer than people think. Cats have nine lives, but which is seldom required in this country coz of Christianity. Men cats are allas called Tom, and girl cats, Puss or Tis; but queer as you may think, all little cats are called kittens, which is a wrong name which oughter be changed. This tame quadruped can see in the dark, so rats stand no chants, much less mice. Girls fears rats, even mice. Last Tuesday I drew our cat on some white tea peoper, and I sold it to a boy who has a father for 20 pins and some coff drops.

HE WOULDN'T TRADE.

A Big Price Offered for a Drink, But It Was Refused.

An old man with a weather-beaten face and a mustache that stuck out into space like an agitated cactus plant stood watching the Wild West parade as it moved along Baltimore street. "Injuns certainly do love whisky," said the old man to a bystander. "Years ago when I was out among 'em I met a Cheyenne on his pony." Then he proceeded with a story which Joe Blackburn used to tell in Washington years ago, as an experience of his own. Anyhow, the story went this way: "Give um drink firewater," said the Injun. "No," said I. "Give um drink me, me give um bride," said the Injun. "No," said I. "Give um drink me, me give um blanket and bride," said the Injun. "No," said I. "Give um drink me, me give um saddle and bride," said the Injun. "No," said I. "Give um drink me, me give um pony," said the Indian. "No," said I. "And you can believe me or not, finally that thirsty Injun offered me a drink, blanket, saddle, pony and all for one single drink of whisky." "And you wouldn't give him a drink for all that?" queried the bystander. "Well, hardly," said the old man, "there was only one link left and I wanted it myself."—Baltimore News.

A Trying Situation.

Mr. Household—Please, sir, take it back. Jeweler—Does it wake the cook? Mr. Household—That's it, sir. She threatens to leave.—Jeweler's Weekly.

Bulletin Financier.

Mercredi, 14 septembre 1898.

COMPTOIR D'EPARGNE (OLIMPIO) DE LA NOUVELLE ORLEANS.

Capital de 1,463,726 00 \$504,043 00

RESERVE FONDAIRE.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes items like Bonds, Stocks, and Cash.

RENTES AMERICAINES ET STRANGERS DE MILLES DE FRANQUES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Lists various interest-bearing securities.

VENTES A LA BOURSE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Paie de ventes.

ACTIONS ET BONS.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Lists various stocks and bonds.

ACTIONS DIVERSES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Lists various miscellaneous stocks.

HE WOULDN'T TRADE.

A Big Price Offered for a Drink, But It Was Refused.

Continuation of the 'HE WOULDN'T TRADE' story, detailing the man's refusal to trade for a drink of whisky.

Bulletin Commercial.

Mercredi, 14 septembre 1898.

Marché de la Nlle-Orléans.

Le Coton.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists cotton market prices.

Marché de la Nlle-Orléans.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Lists various market prices.

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L'ABILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

Est très répandue en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre dans un commerce des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement, pour l'année: Edition quotidienne, \$12 00; Edition hebdomadaire, \$3 00

Marché de la Nlle-Orléans.

Continuation of the market prices section, listing various goods and their prices.