

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1896.

DEPTH OF THE HEAVENS.

WORK OF PHOTOGRAPHY IN REVEALING THEM.

With the Largest Telescopes it is Possible to Gather Rays of Light That Let Their Source Long Before the Pyramids of Egypt Were Built.

In the recent progress which has been made in the study of the heavens, the photographic plate has played a most important part.

Almost the first feature which will strike the observer who is examining a good photograph of the stellar depths is that though they may be hardly any part of the area presented which is quite free from stars, yet that they are distributed with very great irregularity.

Who has not often dwelt with admiration on that glorious stellar girdle which we know as the Milky Way. It is a mighty zone of stars surrounding our solar system.

It is the sun which shines in our skies were to be withdrawn from our neighborhood into the depth of space, if it were to be carried to a distance as remote as is that of many of the stars which we see around us.

The problem of determining the distance of a star from the earth is one which taxes the highest resources of the observing astronomer. Of all the millions of the celestial host there are hardly 100 stars whose distances have been measured with accuracy by those surveying operations by which alone this problem can be accurately solved.

seem just on the verge of visibility, it is plain that those stars, assuming that they intrinsically as bright as the stars which can just be seen with the eye, must be at least 100 times as remote.

It should also be observed that a star as bright as Sirius would still be visible to the unaided eye, though, of course, only as a very small point, if it were translated to a distance ten times as great as that at which it is now situated; it Sirius were at a distance 100 fold greater than that at which it now lies it would still be found within the range of a telescope of moderate power.

Recent researches made by Dr. Gill and Dr. Ekin at the Cape of Good Hope have demonstrated that the distance of Sirius amounts to. It has been shown that the rays from Sirius, travelling as they do with the stupendous speed of light, namely, at the rate of 180,000 miles each second, nevertheless require not less than nine years to traverse the distance between that star and our system.

Who has not often dwelt with admiration on that glorious stellar girdle which we know as the Milky Way. It is a mighty zone of stars surrounding our solar system. Indeed, a just estimate of the relation of the sun to other bodies in the scheme of the universe would regard our great luminary merely as one of similar stars aggregated in countless myriads to form the Milky Way.

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Besides those sidereal objects of which we have spoken there are of course others seemingly as numerous as the sands on the sea shore. No spectacle which the heavens display is more impressive to the beholder than that of a globular cluster, in which thousands of stars are bebed packed closely together within the limits of his field of view.

For the development of life practical stability of climate would seem to be essential. Such conditions could, so far as we know, only be secured in a system like our own, which is controlled by a single sun around which the several planets revolve.

lers on the earth are familiar would seem as nothing in comparison with the vicissitudes of climate in a planet belonging to a system of several suns. It would seem that occasionally the planet must come so near to one or other of the attracting suns that if any life had existed on such a planet it would necessarily be scorched to destruction.

Besides these globular clusters, the heavens contain many other associations of stars arranged in striking groups. We may mention, for instance, the famous cluster in Perseus, an object of indescribable beauty, which, fortunately, lies within the reach of telescopes of comparatively moderate power.

It has been conjectured that these dim and distant clusters may be associations of stars very like that Milky Way which is relatively quite close to the solar system. It may, indeed, be the case that a sidereal group like the Milky Way would, if transferred to an extremely remote part of the universe, present much the same appearance in our telescopes as one of these nebulous clusters does at present.

ROYAL BRIDES OUTFIT. Princess Maud's Wedding Gown and Trousseau. English feminine curiosity is feasting upon the preliminary accounts of Princess Maud's trousseau, and the interest evinced is quite as great as that three years ago, upon the occasion of her brother's marriage to Princess May.

Following the fashion set by her Majesty and adopted by her daughters and granddaughters, the wedding dress has been made at Spitalfields, and is "marvelously beautiful" in texture and appearance.

It is of white satin, ivory in tone, with a silvery sheen. The bodice is cut low, as is the custom at royal weddings, the square décolletage being trimmed with folds of mousseline de soie and trails of orange blossoms, jessamine, myrtle flowers, with here and there a dark green-leaf peeping through. Below, the satin on the bodice is drawn downward, across the figure back and front, terminating on the left side in a deep centre delicately embroidered in silver and brilliants.

The going-away gown will depend upon the weather of the wedding day. Probably it will be of pale blue-gray canvas over blue and pink shot silk. The bodice has a deep folded belt of black satin falling in a little bow at the left side, and pointed revers of black satin, edged with grass lawn guipure. The vest and collar are of blue and white chine silk flowered with pink roses.

A visiting gown of petunia cloth has sleeves of the cloth with an upper puff, jacket bodice, of a darker shade of velvet, opens over a full blouse front of amythist and gold shot silk covered with a tracery of gold sequins and mauve-tinted crystals encircling roses of the jewelled work. Sim-

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Manchester Robertson & Allison, St. John.

lar designs in gold and gems are appliqué upon the sides of the velvet zouave. There is a band of the embroidery round the waist, passing through a gold buckle and a collar of folded velvet, with a line of embroidery at the top. The skirt is plain, not full, and beautifully hung, which features are indeed characteristic of all the skirts in the trousseau.

An afternoon dress is of black brocade in a small and graceful floral design. A yoke of tacked chiffon, black, is set in by a deep embroidery of jet beads and sequins taking the lines of a corsete. The body part is of black chiffon, worked in broken tapering lines of jet. The deep satin waistband is finished at the side by a rosette bow, with tall rabbit-ear end coming well up to the bust. A second black broche gown, with geranium-leaf pattern, has a blouse bodice of white satin under full mousseline de soie wrought with black paillettes in a very delicate tracery, touched at intervals with sparkling steel, which, with the black, has a brilliant effect.

The sleeves are full on the shoulders and have long tapering points of white satin inserted at the cuffs, wrought with steel and jet and outlined with lines of steel. Another visiting dress is of pale pink-mauve striped chine and glace silk, the stripe of satin a shade or two paler than the silk. The bodice is simply fashioned with a rosette bow, so arranged that it looks as if carelessly placed around the shoulders. It is of needle-run Alençon lace, studded over with brilliants and deep and pale amethysts. Similar jewelled lace ornaments the cuffs and neck. A handsome gown of shot black and green silk, with black pinspots upon it, has sleeves and chemisette of plain lighter green silk, veiled in black mousseline de soie, a waistcoat of rich cream-colored brocade and a tiny vest of soft black chiffon, and a collar of the same. There are tabbed epaulets of the silk, edged with green sequin pissementerie. A high belt of black satin completes the costume.

For a summer dress there is a grass lawn with a design in forget-me-not blue woven into it, with white leathery silken lines connecting the flowers. This is made over blue silk, the skirt finished at the bottom with a ruche of blue and white shot chine silk. The front of the bodice is of pleated pale-blue chiffon, with wide bands of guipure embroidery drawn up over it, while the waistband and neckband are of shot blue and white chine ribbon.

Blouses there are many. The most elaborate is of pale blue glace silk flowered with pink rose buds. This has a vest of fine white French lace and a black satin belt. A large collar is tabbed and has points of lace inserted in it. The sleeves are shirred from wrist to elbow, and have one single puff at the top. A second blouse of pale-pink shot silk in two shades of this color. It is simply made with a box pleat down the centre of the front. This has a unique collar. It is the only one that is frilled and high at the back, while plain in the front. This also has the Empire belt of black satin. A severely plain navy blue surah and a black surah, relieved with Irish crochet, arranged in a series of Vandykes down the full front and sleeves, are more fitted for use than for ornament. The cotton blouses are more fully trimmed in proportion to their requirements than the others. They were made with box-pleated fronts, formed of embroidery, the pleats bordered on each side with a frill of narrow Valenciennes lace. Several of these models are of fine grass lawn, the centre pleat, collars, and cuffs being of fancy embroidered grass lawn.

Among the evening dresses may be mentioned a full plain cream satin skirt, with bodice veiled in black chiffon, drawn in folds and worked over in a pattern of bows and ends carried out in the narrowest white silk cord set in by the finest gold thread and pearls. The centre of each knot is accentuated by a glistening spangle. The waist is encircled by a band of black satin-edged and studded with brilliants, fastening with a chiffon bow behind, and

of creamy chiffon over glace silk is edged with deep frills of soft creamy lace. The sleeves are of shirred chiffon, and the back is arranged in a Watteau fold. Of matinee in silk and muslin, frilled and trimmed with lace and ribbons, there are numbers. The under linen is all of the finest description, trimmed with real lace and marked with an 'M' and a crown in satin stitch. The handkerchiefs are likewise marked. The stockings are of finest silk—black for ordinary wear, but in delicate open work for evening in all colors. There are quantities of gloves. The day gloves have four buttons, as a rule, and the greatest number of evening gloves are twelve-button mousquetaires of white kid, which are the court gloves. There are, of course, delicate shades to match dresses, and heavy ones for driving and hard wear. The shoes and slippers are in proportion to the gowns, of dainty colors, elaborate work, and good, serviceable material, but of English make. Great attention has been given to the walking shoes, that they may be rendered impervious to water and never wear out.

And then there are very elegant wraps, particularly a full seal cape, lined with black and cherry broche, and chinchilla collar. A royal purple velvet cape, lined throughout with the finest Russian sable, is a present from her mother. It is a comfort to be able to say in conclusion—in these days when it is the English fashion to wear anything short of a whole conservatory upon the head—that the hats of the royal bride are described as "severely plain."

Modern Research has Wrecked Many Cherished Stories. The path of recent historical research is strewn with the wrecks of discredited myths, but of all these the wreck of the once cherished story of William Tell, Gessler and the apple is the most conspicuous. In 1760 a German book was published casting doubts on the narrative, and this book was publicly burned by the hangman of the canton Uri. It is now proven beyond any doubt that neither Tell nor Gessler had any existence, and the story of William Tell is now forbidden to be inserted in Swiss school books. Among many other myths once accepted as fact the following are conspicuous: The pass of Thermopylae was defended, not by three hundred Spartans, but by seven thousand Greeks. Nero did not chant the "Burning of Troy" during the conflagration in Rome, and he did not murder his mother. Constantine the Great was great only as a scoundrel. The priest at the guillotine did not say to Louis XVI.: "Son of St. Louis, ascend to Heaven!" and the king did not die with dignity, for he struggled with his executioners and screamed for help and mercy. The Spanish Armada was not scattered by the winds of Heaven. The winds changed four times in its favor and saved it each time from destruction. In fact, if the wind had not gone right round to the south just after the battle of Gravelines, it is highly improbable that a single ship would have escaped.

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