

ARATUS-"Phenomena," (3)

by C. L. Prince, F. R. A. S., (Lewes. 1895.)

プリンス 散文譯——アラートの天象詩

Here it trickles from the rock, nor do you perceive the supply far removed from the Thespian land. The Horse revolves in heaven, ever to be observed. Here also is the path of the fleet Ram, who, quickly moving, is not outrun by the more slowly moving Cynosura. He is, however, by no means conspicuous during the presence of moonlight; nevertheless, he may be distinguished by the girdle of Andromeda, situated a short distance below him. Meanwhile he treads high heaven and passes around the Scorpion's Claws and the belt of Orion. Here another constellation is placed below Andromeda; a three sided figure called Deltodon, two sides of which are equal; the third is not so long, as may easily be observed, but it is the brightest of the three. A little way off are the southern stars of the Ram, but somewhat in advance. To the southward we find the constellation Pisces, one of them ever appearing brighter than the other, but it sooner feels the effects of the great northern blast.

Both appear as though fastened by their tails, converging at one, and at their junction shines a great and brilliant star, called the celestial tie. At the left shoulder of Andromeda, and very near, you find the more northern fish, while both her feet point towards her spouse Perseus, on whose shoulders they ever rest. To the north he stands conspicuous above all with his right hand extended towards the seat of his mother-in-law's chair. But as a person quickly moving disturbs his garments he, wearied, seeks his father Jupiter. Near his left knee all the Pleiades are gathered together. A small space contains them all; they shine with a somewhat feeble light. Seven in number are placed on record, but to our sight only six appear. It is not known for certain at what period the missing star disappeared and its preexistence is considered fabulous; nevertheless, they each have their names, viz.:—Alcyon, Merope, Celaeno, Electra, Asterope, Taygeta, and the esteemed Maia. Their light is by no means brilliant, but they are of fair renown, and rise and set at the will of their father Jupiter, who teaches them to observe the summer and winter seasons and the proper time for making preparations for the advent of the plough. There is the Tortoise, too, which, although small, Mercury pierced its cradle and commanded that its should be called the Lyre: transferring it to heaven, he had it placed before a mysterious Idol, and passing on quickly laid it down at its left knee with the crown of the head turning towards the Swan, while between the head and leg of the same it is fixed.

A bird of various hues flies above and somewhat obscure; but the wings are readily

distinguished, although of such moderate brilliancy.

Here settling down like a bird it is carried by the tail to the westward, itself even to his foot nails, but the left wing leans towards the right hand of Cepheus, and extends the foot of the Horse. In his neighbourhood are the Pisces, while near his head is extended the right hand of the Water-bearer and behind him is the Goat, standing farther off where runs the Sun's path,

In that month sail not upon the vast tempestuous ocean, certainly not for any distance, since the days are very short; nor yet near the dawn, after a very stormy night, notwithstanding exhortations. When the Goat rises simultaneously with the Sun the south winds burst forth and the cold air becomes very inimical to the oppressed sailor.

However, throughout the whole year, the sea darkens beneath the Keels. We, like the diving seagull, looking around upon the sea from our ships, sit down, watching the shore washed by the as yet far off waves, well aware that only a trifling thickness of wood preserves us from death. Notwithstanding having suffered much at sea in the former month, still, when the Sun lightens up the rainbow and oarsmen bring your ship into port in the evening, do not venture any further dangers.

Take warning of that time, and in that month, when the Scorpion rises near the early dawn; forasmuch as the Archer draws his great bow to the very point, but the Scorpion rising a little before him, abides near him and they ascend. Then also the head of Cynosura rises very high during the night, but sets before the dawn as well as Orion; Cepheus also from his hand to his loins, does the same. Likewise, just beyond is thrown another arrow, but not from any bow, and passes by the Swan. Near it, towards the north, is another bird of lesser size, when tempestuous is the sea at the latter part of the night, aroused by the northern blast. The small Dolphin lies near the Goat and rather obscure, but there are four stars lying around and in pairs; all these are scattered along the northern boundary of the Sun's path; many other stars, too, arise between it and the southern sky.

Orion lies obliquely to the region occupied by the Bull. Who will fail to observe him lying high upon a calm night? For he may be readily seen by any observant person looking towards the sky. Such a keeper is he that under his proud back the Dog shines, standing upright upon both feet, nevertheless he is not conspicuous, especially about his belly, although, near the upper part of his jaw, is a very remarkable and brilliant star of a scorching nature which is called Sirius. When it rises with the Sun no trees deceive with fruitless boughs for it easily ascertains their condition and improves such as may have lost their bark. Its influence is felt also at its setting. Other stars lie around, less brilliant, and assume the form of branches. Under both feet of Orion is the Hare, chased by him daily and incessantly with Sirius following close behind, also it rises at the same time and follows to the setting.