

ARATUS—"Phenomena," (2)

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

As yet they are ignorant of pernicious strife, contentious wrangling, and sedition, but lived a quiet life and ignorant of the danger of the sea, for as yet no ships brought them food from foreign lands, but oxen and the plough, the lady herself, JUSTICE, the upholder of right, supplied all the wants of the people. Then also was the time when earth nourished the golden race. Rarely and with somewhat less interest did she visit the silver race, being solicitous for the welfare of the ancient people; nevertheless, she had not forsaken the silver race; but would come to them alone, at eventide, from the high mountains, never returning, however, in good humor with any. When she had filled the great cities with crowds of men, she ever and anon assumed a threatening attitude, rebuking them for their wickedness.

"Never more," she said, "will I take any notice of your entreaties. 'Tis wonderful how the golden fathers left so degenerate a race, but you will leave behind you a race still more degenerate. Then bloody wars and many feuds will be in store for your posterity and grievous pain will be attendant upon the distress." Having spoken these words she would return to the mountains, taken away from the people with whom she was, who with straining eyes watched her departure.

As soon as many of this race were dead, others were born—a brazen age—in which the race of men were more wicked than their ancestors; they were the first to bring into use the evil-bearing sword; who first, also, established the practice of eating oxen. Then JUSTICE, hating this race of men, betook herself to heaven and firmly established herself therein, where by night may be perceived the Virgin shining conspicuously some distance from Bootes, and over whose shoulders, near the right wing, is a star bearing the name of Vindemiter, which shines with such magnitude and brilliancy as to equal that which shines under the tail of the great Bear; those stars in the adjoining group also shine brightly, nor probably will you have much difficulty in identifying it. Such is that great and bright one which lies before her feet, one also under her shoulder, another as far as her back, besides another under her hinder knee. All the others are of moderate brilliancy, while others still remain nameless. Near are the heads of the Twins, while below lies the middle portion of the Crab. Under both feet the Lion brightly shines; there also in the path of the scorching Sun. Then do the fields of corn appear empty as the first approach of the Sun to the Lion. Then also the whispering Etesian winds, assembling, rush over the vast ocean, at which time navigation is not desirable with wide spread oars; at such a time the greater ships are the most convenient, for then it behoves the steerers to hold the rudders against the wind if you would survey Auriga and his accompanying stars. Regard should also be had of the Goat and Kids, which, on the dark looking sea, would often render assistance to sea-tost sailors. You may find Auriga and his vast form leaning to left of the Twins. Near to him may be seen the high head of Helice, while on his left shoulder lies

the sacred Goat, which is reported to have nourished Jupiter, whose priests give this she goat the name of Olenia. Here are many and brilliant stars, but the Kids shine less brightly at his wrists. Near the feet of Auriga observe the huge horn of the Bull, where many other similar stars are located. Its head also is well defined, nor is any other conjecture required concerning it; besides there are the stars which shine on both sides of the head. Their name is often mentioned. Here, too, are the somewhat neglected Hyades which are spread over the forehead of the Bull.

At the extremity of the Bull's right horn, adjoining the right foot of Auriga, a solitary star is beheld taking a similar course. However, that portion of the Bull nearest Auriga is the first to set, although both rise simultaneously.

Nor shall the worried house of Cepheus be altogether ignored, whose name is established in the sky, for they are connections of Jupiter. Cepheus himself lying at the back of Cynosura appears like a person stretching forth both his hands in a line extending from the tip of her tail to both feet (from foot to foot). Between them you may presently perceive from his belt the first convolution of the great Serpent-Dragon. Before this the unhappy Cassiopeia ascends above the horizon, but not shining very brightly in the presence of a full Moon; neither are there many stars to point her out, for those which accompany her are few.

But like a door provided with an inner lock sounds the slipping latches of a double-folding door, so are the stars arranged in a single row, and she, raising her outstretched arms from her slight shoulders, seems greatly distressed on account of her daughter. For there a sad object is observed——Andromeda——adorned with stars, beneath her mother. I do not think you would have occasion to look long for her at night, but rather you would find her at once, so bright is her head and so bright likewise are both her shoulders, feet and girdle. Also fully extended are her arms and hands which are chained as it were even to heaven for ever. Moreover, just above her head the great Horse rears, lightly touching her where a star shines, common to both at a certain point, viz., at his navel and the crown of her head. Besides three other bright and large stars are placed equi-distant, between his sides and fore-legs, but those at his head are not nearly so bright nor is the neck extended far; nevertheless, the last star of his bright jaw even rivals the preceding ones. Four other stars which are in his constellation are very distinct. But here he is not four-footed, for, from his navel upwards, the sacred Horse rises with but half his body. It is reported that he came from High Helicon and to have brought fair water from the Horse's fountain, for never does High Helicon send forth her streams but when the Horse himself bears them, and pours them forth copiously at the stroke of his forefoot. Shepherds were the first to call this spring the fountain of the Horse.

アライトス——西暦紀元前315年頃キリキアに生れ、同245年頃マケドニアに死す。マケドニア王ゴナタに使へて、書きしものうち、詩二篇のみ傳はる。一はΦαινομενα(天象詩)、他は Διοσημεια (氣象詩)なり。詩形はアレキサンドリア派に屬す。後世、ヒバルコス此の天象詩の註釋を書き、又、ロマのシセロ、ゲルマクス、ア平エヌス、キンテリアン等愛唱す。聖パウロは使徒行傳 17 の 28 中に此の一節を引けり(大英百科辭典より)