

says the writer, that those stars should have been looked upon as merely intended to spangle the sky and give light at night. As lamps they were always a failure. Sixty times the total starlight on the clearest night would not equal the illumination given by the moon; and thirty-three million times their radiance would be required to equal sunlight. Yet the stars which are seen even by a powerful telescope are now known to be only an insignificant proportion of those actually existing inside "visible space."

Going farther, Sir Edwin points out that telescopic photography, as practiced today in all the observatories, reveals, in almost every apparently blank region of the celestial sphere, countless new and distant worlds, lying far beyond all methods of mortal computation and measurement. The only "foot rule" with which there are made estimates of the scale of distances in the "visible universe" is light. This travels along the ether at the rate of 186,000 miles in a second, so that the ray which we receive from the sun left his surface eight minutes before it has reached our eyes. By ingenious processes based on complex arithmetic, astronomers have determined the distance of about eighty stars, and the nearest of all of them to our system is Alpha Centauri. The radiance of this star takes however, about four years to reach human vision, while that which we perceive from Alpha Tauri or Aldebaran was projected from its glittering source twenty-seven years ago; and most of those seen deeper in the night sky are so far off that their present light left them three or four hundred years back.

It also is stated that many stars are today visible whose beams have traveled to our gaze only after a lapse of thousands of years, and it is suggested there must be radiant streams now on their way from heavenly bodies in the empyrean which will only reach the eyes of our very far off posterity. The distance of the outside planet of our family, Neptune, is computed as two thousand eight hundred and twenty-five millions of miles from the sun, so that we may roughly call the diameter of our flying system in space five thousand six hundred and fifty millions of miles. "But vast as this sounds," says Sir Edwin, "our solar system sinks into a speck when one reflects that if we should represent the interval between the sun and the earth by one inch, then to put Aldebaran into his proper place and proportion our chart would have to be nine leagues wide."

When it is remembered that the distance of the sun from earth is placed at ninety-three millions of miles, and that to travel thither at the average rate of railway passenger train speed would take about 600 years, the comparative insignificance of the little corner of space occupied by the earth and the planetary system in which it is classed by astronomers may be in a small measure realized. And the fact that in the celestial regions which to the mortal eye are apparently blank the telescope reveals myriads of planets, shows how limitless to man's comprehension are the works of the great Creator. When brought face to face with these visible evidences of the

power, intelligence and activity of the Almighty, and the perfect order and design which governs in this vast material universe, how infinitesimal are man and the scope of his powers in mortality! And yet, with the knowledge that he is the offspring, the child, the heir of the great Creator and Ruler whose works are thus manifest, how infinitely great and glorious is his destiny when he shall have come into the fulness of that estate to which he is heir, and shall have advanced to the perfect stature of his Father!

WHEAT AND PRICES.

Yesterday (October 5) a sale was effected in this city of four carloads of the best northern wheat, selected, sacked and delivered at the railway depot. The wheat has been carefully examined, and is pronounced to be of the very highest quality of this season's yield. The price which it brought was 46 cents per bushel, or 76½ cents per hundred pounds. Take from that the cost of loading and shipment, over 10 cents per bushel, and it gives the figure the farmer was allowed for his best product in this grain.

The price here given is the least yet brought this fall in this city by wheat of such good quality; and it is quite probable that it will be the lowest point of the season. It is the judgment of experienced dealers that within a short time the price of the grain must assume an upward movement, and consequently that no further depression can be accomplished. The fact that there is a big supply locally, and that the farmers are in need of money, is offset by another congratulatory fact that the wheat growers evince a determination not to sell at the prevailing low rates and that other crops are so abundant and find such good market that the farmers can exchange these instead of their wheat for cash. The oat yield has been above average, and there is an unusually large demand; the potato crop generally is good, and extensive purchases are being made at fair prices for shipment; and the proceeds from these products is bringing in enough cash to enable farmers to hold their wheat for the present at least. Besides this, some of the railways have just made such rates that the grain can be shipped to Colorado and points east, and net to the producer more than he can receive here when such figures as those quoted control in the Salt Lake market. These features are pointed out as indicating with unerring certainty that the price of good wheat has reached its most depressed point for 1894.

If this should be the case, and there is no good reason why it should not be, now is the opportunity of the wheat raiser to lay a foundation for getting out of the uncomfortable situation in which each successive harvest has found him. He has been compelled in the past to let his grain go in the autumn at any price he could get, in order to meet pressing needs. He now finds himself in a situation to demand a comparatively reasonable price—though by no means what it should be—and at the same time gets a start toward holding his grain over to a time when better figures usually pre-

vail. Under ordinary favorable circumstances, he now can place himself, by a system of rigid economy for a short time, in a position to hold his surplus wheat over each season for the best market. The question for the wheat grower in these valleys to decide is whether he will try to do this and thus escape the burden which heretofore has pressed heavily upon him.

There has been a great deal of urging for people to store their grain—to lay in a good supply of breadstuffs. If all who were able in the past to follow this advice had done so, the people would have been in a vastly better condition financially than they are now; but the advice was unheeded by many and the penalty of an unwise course is being paid, in addition to having other troubles to meet. The wheat growers have been pleaded with to hold their surplus so far as possible, and to combine in a system of co-operative granaries or elevators in order to do this profitably and satisfactorily. But this plan, feasible as it is conceded to be, has not been followed to any great extent, though wherever adopted it has proven a success. Perhaps those most concerned will now see the necessity and advantages of some such move and will engage therein; and while the downward tendency of the wheat market appears to have received a check of considerable proportions, that growers will avail themselves of the opportunity offered for securing a permanent improvement in their affairs. The bulk of the farmers should take lessons from some of our well known wheat growers in this community, who have become comparatively rich through holding their grain each year until the market recovered from the rush at harvest in every part of the country.

WILL DIVIDE CHINA.

If the Oriental dispatches are to be relied on, Japan aims at nothing less than the partition of China in three separate divisions and placing over each an independent native ruler, Li Hung Chang being mentioned as one of them. The plan must have been conceived in a moment when the rulers of Japan had become dizzy on account of the victories already gained on land and sea over their foes.

It is evident that the Japanese forces so far have had the better of the war, even when allowance is made for the usual exaggerations or the reports. Their ships are superior and their army better disciplined. They have driven the Chinese back and are on the road to Peking. But notwithstanding all these advantages, it is not to be expected that, if the war is carried on to the bitter end, they can effect so complete a subjugation of the empire as the plan for its partition would imply. It may be possible for the mikado, if general rebellion in China should take place, to depose the present dynasty, but when that is done, the Chinese themselves, who are not inspired by enthusiasm for the present ruler, would most probably rally for the defense of the country and drive the Japanese invaders from their borders. They might be defeated again and again, but their