

beetles, and cut-worms form over 26 per cent of the entire food of crows. After the May beetle season has passed grasshoppers constitute the greater part of the insect food of crows to the end of the fall. Crows also destroy mice, rabbits and other injurious rodents.

In view of these findings it is only proper to suggest that no true sportsmen will want to shoot a hawk, and no pot hunter or amateur gunner ought to be allowed to do so without danger or heavy fine; as to the black fellows, the prudent farmer ought to feel like taking down every scarecrow in his fields.

#### AMONG THE STARS.

A writer in the Scientific American gives some astronomical data for the present month, which probably will be of general interest. The planet Venus obtained its greatest brilliancy as a morning star on October the 25th, and is now withdrawing from the sun until the end of November. Schiaparelli's latest observations of this planet confirm him in the opinion that its rotation is exceedingly slow, and probably exactly coincident in time with the period of its revolution around the sun. If this supposition is correct, Venus has, consequently, perpetual day on one side and perpetual night on the other.

About the time Venus obtained its greatest splendor in October, Mercury was swiftly passing between the sun and the earth. At the beginning of November this planet might be seen emerging from the ray of the morning sun. The gravitation by which his solar master restrains him is not long enough to permit him to overtake Venus, but on the morning of the 10th he will be at his greatest elongation from the sun, straining, as it were, to break his bonds, and then will be a good time for early risers to catch a glimpse of him.

Mars, Saturn and Uranus are all assembled near the sun in the morning sky in the constellation Libra. Mars and Saturn will be in conjunction the 16th of November—a very evil aspect, say the astrologers. There is no reason for alarm though, since Mars has been made the object of so much flattering attention on the part of the inhabitants of the earth, while Saturn may be supposed to have enough to do with its own affairs without adding to its burden of trouble the concerns of our little globe.

The month will be noted for a number of conjunctions. Several of the heavenly hosts have arranged a regular tete-a-tete with some of the glowing orbs in space. On the 18th there will be a close conjunction of Mars and the star Alpha Libræ; on the 20th a conjunction of Mercury and Saturn; on the 23rd a conjunction of Mercury and Mars, and on the 25th a conjunction of Mercury and Uranus. These are certain to play a conspicuous part in the horoscopes of the astrologers, who do not disappear with the dark ages, but flourish in large numbers today, and find thousands of credulous followers.

Jupiter, near the borders of Cancer and Leo, rises a couple of hours before midnight during November and is a brilliant object in the small hours of the morning.

The month opened with a full

moon and our satellite reaches last quarter in Leo on the evening of the 9th, and becomes new moon in Libra on the 16th about midday, first quarter following in Aquarius early on the morning of the 24th.

The lunar planetary conjunctions occur as follows: With Neptune on the 5th, with Jupiter on the 9th, with Venus on the 13th, with Mercury on the 15th, with Mars on the 15th, with Saturn on the 15th, and with Uranus on the 16th. The moon is nearest the earth on the 13th and farthest from it on the 25th.

#### THE NATIONAL GUARD.

Three governors have lately exercised their prerogatives in using the military arm or their states in the suppression of riots and the prevention of lawlessness. The manner thereof, and the occasion therefor, vary somewhat, but the principle involved was the same; which is, that where ordinary peace provisions are unequal to the task of straightening out any existing or threatened emergency, the national guard of the state may properly be called into action.

It has become quite the fashion with many narrow and selfish people to sneer at the citizen soldiery, and some legislatures have seemed to regard the claims of the militia for proper recognition and support as little short of impudence and mendacity. They forget that the members voluntarily assume many obligations in their service to the state that no pay is asked for and none expected; and not content with requiring gratuitous service from these young men, the critics, who probably would be among the first to want protection in case of trouble, libel and ridicule the militia in their endeavors to qualify themselves for the service required. It is an auspicious and encouraging omen for the national guard, therefore, when in three states of the Union, as has recently been the case in Arkansas, Indiana and Ohio, this local arm of power has been invoked and has done its work well; and it is not likely, in view of its ready response and patriotic conduct, that the national guard as an organization has three warmer friends than Governor Clarke, Governor Matthews and Governor McKinley.

#### THE TURKISH QUESTION.

The latest advices from Constantinople are considered of very grave importance. The renewed disturbances in various parts of Asia Minor seem to have produced a general conviction that the recent settlement on a basis of reforms embracing the Christian population in Armenia was not accorded to in sincerity on the part of the sultan, or, if it was, that it is impracticable. Something more must be done in order to put an end to the state of anarchy that is prevalent.

Acting on this conviction and undoubtedly on instructions from the respective European governments, the foreign ambassadors in Constantinople proceeded to the Porte and urged that immediate measures for the restoration

of order be taken, adding a threat that otherwise the powers would take steps in the matter. This means, it would seem, that Europe at last has concluded to interfere in Turkish affairs in some effective way, and it is hardly conceivable that the announcement would have been made, unless a definite plan of action had previously been agreed to between the interested cabinets. Nobody seriously believes that the Turkish government is in a position to carry out its promises with regard to reforms, even if it had a desire to do so. It stands between the civilized world and a nation inspired by fanaticism, made still more dangerous by ignorance. Its very existence is conditioned on its yielding to the opposed demands of both. Hence its duplicity, its broken promises, its double-faced diplomacy.

In London, it appears, the present situation is justly appreciated as grave. Leading papers say the action of the Turkish ambassadors is "the beginning of the end," and that the disintegration of the sultan's empire is now within a measurable distance. The rule of Mohammeda over nations of another faith is nearing its termination.

In the history of the various groups of the human family, a thoughtful student cannot fail to discern a marvelous providence. Particularly is this the case with those nations that for some reason or other have come in close contact with the peoples chosen to be the bearers in the world of the light of truth, and which, consequently, are referred to in the writings of the inspired men who outlined the world's history beforehand to the remotest ages. The Ottomans belong to this class, being clearly noted both in the Old and New Testament. They obtained their power over that part of the world where the rays of Christianity first shone in brilliant splendor, but at a time when that light had been extinguished and darkness taken its place. When men in the name of the Eternal One had commenced to worship demons and idols of gold and silver, and were committing murders and sorceries and other abominable sins, the messengers of vengeance were let loose from their strongholds in the interior of Asia, and with their thousands of horsemen they descended on the world, Christian only in name, marking their trail with fire and blood. The time of their power to do harm, the Prophecy says, was to extend over a well defined period—about 400 years—after which their mission as the scourge of the Almighty is ended. Hitherto all efforts of powers, numerically and otherwise superior, to dislodge them from their position has been unavailing, but it is evident that when the designated time comes for their removal, it will be equally unavailing to endeavor to maintain them in possession of countries destined for other purposes.

Aside from any political aspect of the so-called eastern question, the events there are of great interest for the reason that the disintegration of the Turkish empire and the liberation of the Christian nations under the protection of some civilized country means, as is easily understood, the readjustment of the affairs of the Old World on