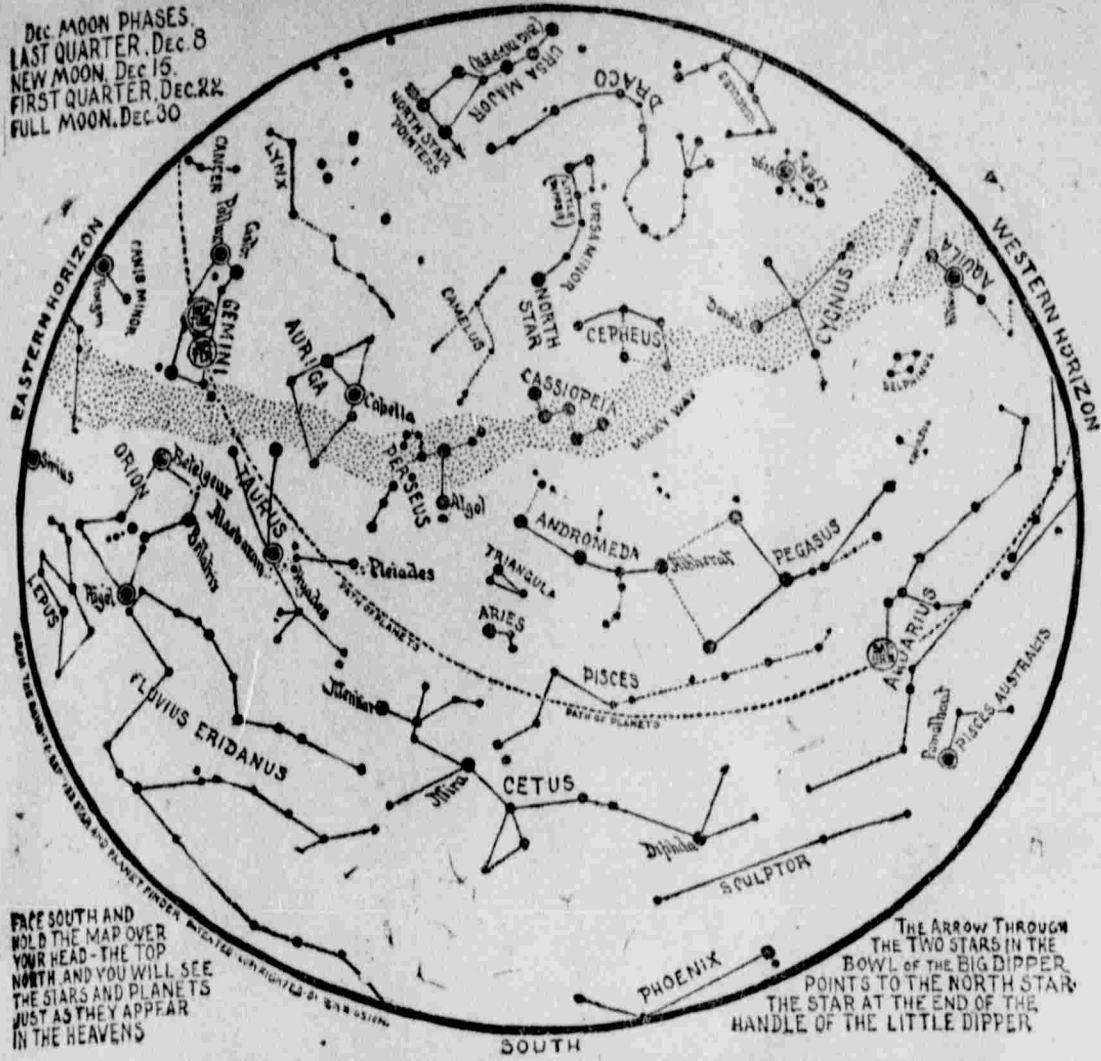


EVENING SKY MAP FOR DECEMBER



DECEMBER ushers in the first of the splendid winter constellations—Orion, Taurus, Gemini and Auriga. What a feast of scintillating stellar worlds they are bringing into the view! The eye at one glance eastward holds upon its retina seven first magnitude stars—Aldebaran, the fiery red eye of Taurus; Betelgeuse and Rigel in Orion; Pollux in Gemini; Capella in Auriga; Procyon in Canis Minor, and the most brilliant of all stars, Sirius, in Canis Major, while over the whole group, presiding with kingly majesty and overshadowing brilliancy, sits the planet Jupiter on his throne in Gemini.

Turn aside from the attractions of the firmament tonight and gaze upon this incomparable stellar spectacle. Let your imagination soar with the thought that these same stars were looked upon by the lowly Nazarene, the Caesars, and the shepherds 2,000 years ago; that thousands of years before them other bearers of hope, other Caesars and other shepherds gazed with awe and wondering admiration upon this scene; that millions of years, undoubtedly, before their time these same stars shone out upon the night as you see them now.

It is well to commune with nature one in a while, to have some thought of the great system of which our world is a part, to have a realizing sense of our own littleness and we shall be better men and women for it.

VENUS A MORNING STAR.

Venus has now left our evening sky and on Dec. 19 will appear as a morning star in the constellation Scorpio. Mercury is also a morning star at this date and in the same constellation. Mars is a morning star on Dec. 5 in the constellation Virgo and within a very few degrees of the first magnitude star Spica.

When a superior planet and the earth are in a straight line with the sun it is termed "opposition." Every 25 or 26 months Mars and the earth are in opposition. The average distance between Mars and the earth at these periods is 50,000,000 of miles. As the orbits of these bodies are elliptical there comes an opposition once every 15 years when the earth is farthest from the sun and Mars is nearest to the sun, which brings the distance between these planets down to 35,000,000 miles—the nearest point at which they ever approach each other.

This interesting period is near at hand and will fully develop during the coming summer months. Mars will then be a special object of study by astronomers because of its nearness and to the layman because to the naked eye its strikingly red color will be greatly accentuated by its increased size and brilliancy in which respect it will rival Venus.

Saturn is still an evening star in Aquarius; Neptune near Jupiter in Gemini, but invisible except by telescope, and Uranus, also invisible to the naked eye, in Sagittarius.

WHEN IS A STAR "MORNING?"

I have received many inquiries as to when a planet is a morning or an evening star. The rule is very simple, and as follows: A planet rising (or appearing) in the heavens before midnight is an evening star and a planet rising after midnight is a morning star. Venus and Mercury, being between the earth and the sun, cannot rise in the evening on the eastern horizon, as do the superior planets—Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune—all of which move in orbits outside of the earth's, so as the sun goes down Venus and Mercury come into view—appear—as evening stars—Mercury for an hour after sunset and Venus for two or three hours, when they follow the sun below our horizon, going down long before midnight.

In the morning, however, when Venus and Mercury appear as morning stars, it might be said of them as of the superior planets—that they rise.

To ascertain when a planet will appear as a morning or evening star on a given date take a planet finder, place the planet disk upon the degree of the ecliptic according to the table

for the date desired and revolve the planisphere until the disk appears in the opening; stop the planisphere then and look for the day of the month selected, and if opposite any hour before midnight the planet will be an evening star, and if opposite an hour after midnight it will be a morning star. LEON BARRITT.

POLITE CORRESPONDENCE OF OLD-TIME LETTER WRITERS.

The "ready letter writers" of the present day, while they may be subjects of serious study to rural devotees of etiquette, at the same time afford entertaining reading to persons of a keen sense of humor, especially when these manuals attempt to supply rules for the writing of love letters, proposals and other epistles not included in the category of formal correspondence. If these impress us as being extremely funny, what shall be said of the "polite letter writers" of our great-grandfathers? Here is the opening recommendation of a choice seventeenth century specimen, for which the writer is indebted to an official of the Congressional library at Washington:

"Let not your breast lie on the desk you write on, nor your nose on the paper, but sit in as majestic a posture as you can; with practice you may do brave things."

Being properly, and let us hope majestically, posed for the task, the old time correspondent might proceed to seek in his guide book a model for such a letter as he wished to compose. It offered a wide choice. Among the headings of a "guide" of 1615, styled "A President for Young Penmen," and advertised as "full of variety, delight and pleasure" are included "A letter from a friend to a fantastical, conceited madcap," "A lying letter to a clamorous gentlewoman," with an equally "lying" reply, showing how the aggrieved lady might relieve her

feelings on paper, if not clamorously, at least forcibly; "A melancholy, discontentive letter upon the frowns of a friend," "A letter to an unkind horse," which seems as if one were at last coming to something practical, but still seems, for immediately following it is given "A letter of Miss Jeanie Smith to her cousin, giving her an account of a very remarkable instance of envy in one of her acquaintances, who lived in the city of New York."

Naturally models are given for letters of invitation, acceptance and declination—models in which the courtesy may be beyond criticism, but the English assuredly is not.

"Mr. Johnson's compliments wait on Miss More, to beg the very great favor of being her partner tomorrow evening at the assembly." Miss More no doubt found nothing amiss in this request, as at that date a lady attended a ball with her "partner" and danced with him the whole evening and with no one else, but she had already made choice of a cavalier.

"Miss Mary's compliments to Mr. Johnson, and she is engaged."

But it is not always that the "letter-writer" countenance social frivolities. A mother writing to a boarding-school miss—not yet "out," of course—is made to inquire warningly: "Do you resolved to embark in the fashionable follies of the gay and unthinking world?" To which query the model daughter evolves this prudish reply: "My Dear Mother—I love virtue, I love religion, and I hope no consideration will ever lead me from those duties in which alone I expect future happiness."

Saving His Money.

An Irishman passing through the wood in a lonely part of the country was accosted by a highwayman, who, thrusting a revolver in his face, said: "Your money or your life?"

The Irishman, trembling with fear, replied:

"Take me loife! Take me loife! I'm saving me money fer me old age."



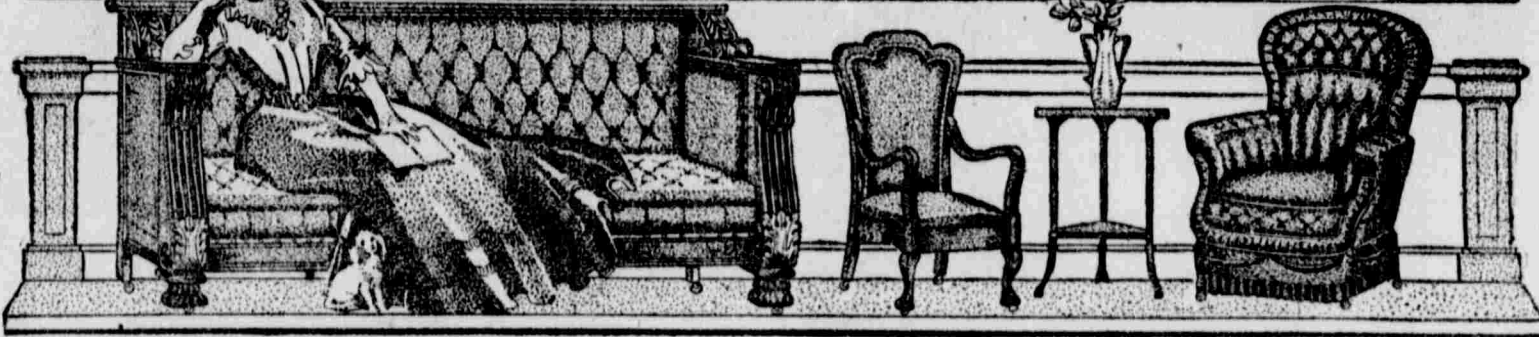
Since The First Christmas Never Has There Been Such An Abundance Of Good Things As We Are Now Showing.



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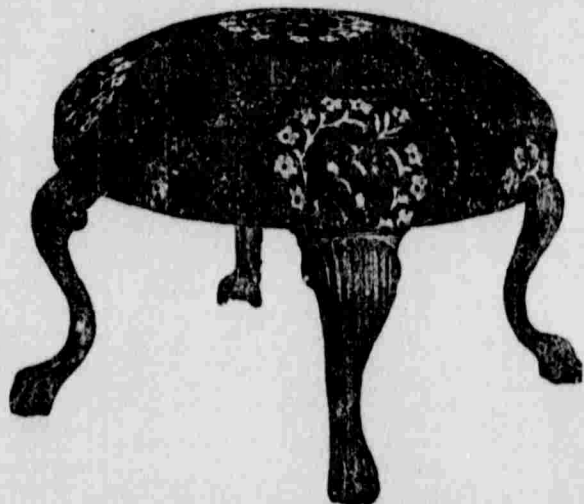
We have on display over forty styles of **Karpen Guaranteed Genuine Leather Rockers**, they come in all designs with or without fringe. All this week the special sale on **Karpen leather furniture** will last. As a leader we place on sale a Rocker similar to above cut, steel constructed and covered with Karpen Sterling Leather. Regular price \$65.00, this week **\$45.00**; \$7.50 down and \$7.50 per month, if desired. The Karpen line, for which we are agents, has a world-wide reputation for its exclusive design and construction. Our guarantee added to theirs makes it absolutely certain that you will be always pleased with your purchase.



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