

First Swim in Lake Sixty Years Ago Today

WHEN the Utah pioneers drove into Salt Lake valley July 24, 1847, they knew little about the place, and the first duties were to look around the valley and its environs.

It was 60 years ago Wednesday that they first saw the great body of water across the valley that is known as Great Salt Lake, but it was 60 years ago today that the first member of the band dipped in the salty b-l-n-o, found he could not sink, and recorded in his diary the impression that this lake was one of the world's wonders.

It was at Black Rock where the first swimming was done, and the party who indulged in the pleasure which has since become the distinctive joy of life in Salt Lake was composed of all the members of the council of apostles then in the city, and six others, and it was the second exploring party sent out. The first, under Brigham Young, had gone north, climbed Ensign peak, and looked over the valley from that site. That went out Monday, July 26, and this one started Tuesday, July 27.

Orson Pratt, who had led all the pioneering as an advance scout, led this expedition, and went the farthest west. He has left a narrative of what he found. Wilford Woodruff has left another narrative, and Thomas Bullock has left still another. All are of interest, and they describe the great black rock which so many early Utah writers have described, to which the first Utah railroad ran to carry bathing parties, and which such eminent artists as Alfred Lambourn and H. L. A. Culmer have treated in their series of Utah paintings.

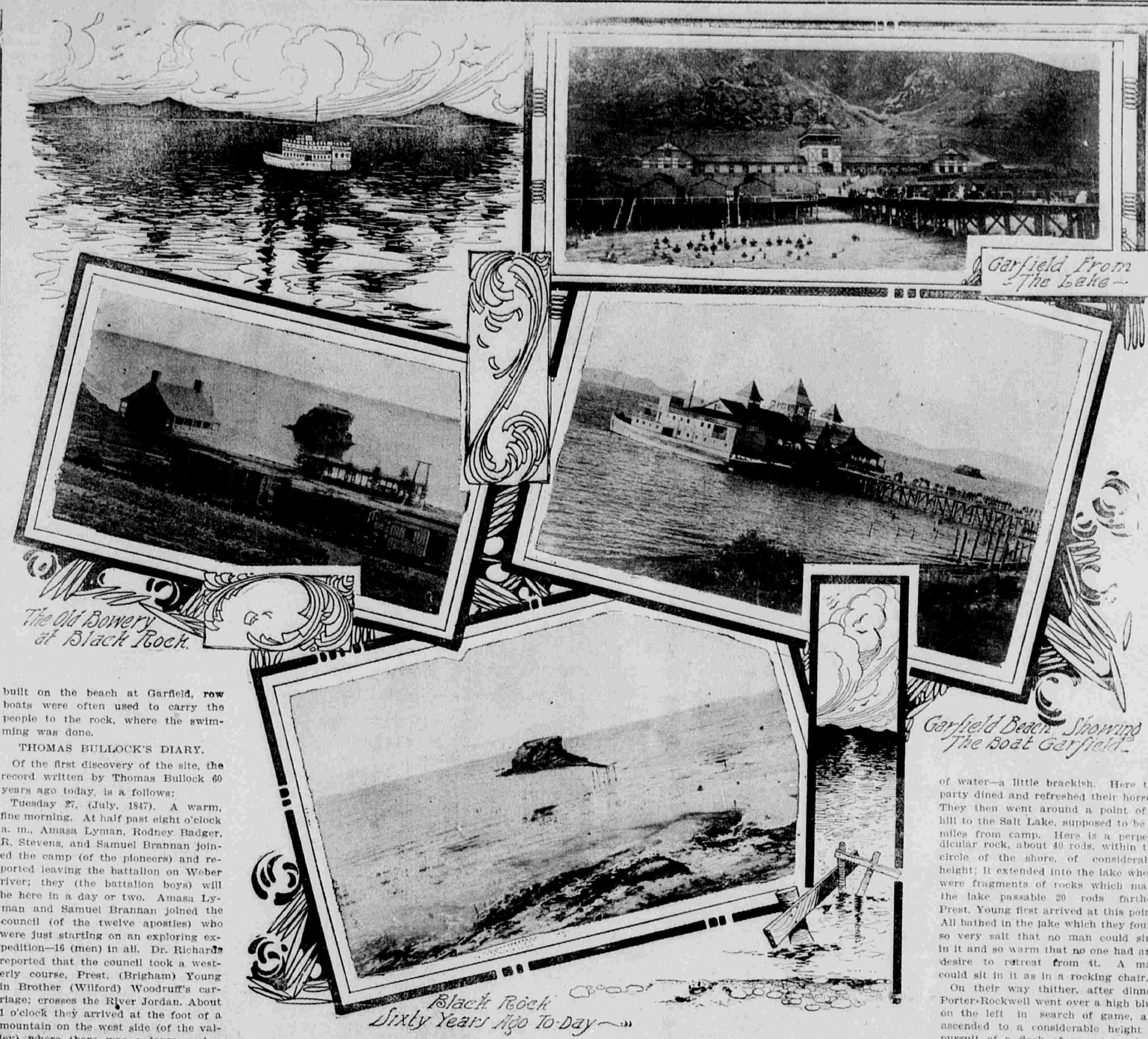
GARFIELD BEACH ELIMINATED.

Many of the men who were boys 20 years, and even 15 and 20 years ago, remember the bathing at Black Rock and at Garfield, which took its name from the ship anchored there, which in turn took its name from President Garfield. Now the Western Pacific grade has eliminated the Garfield beach from the bathing sites, but Black Rock remains, and it is promised that a large resort and hotel will be built near the rock next summer, to not only cater to bathing trade but to people wishing to spend a few weeks in the summer where the salt waves roll in against the shore.

In the old days of bathing there, the excursion trains left the "Garfield depot" in the later era, and before that they left in the street from the corner of Fourth West and South Temple. The fire and police departments were giving an excursion there when Sheriff Andrew Burt was shot to death in Salt Lake, and the man who did the shooting was lynched.

THE OLD BOWERY.

Under the "bowery" there were many historic gatherings, and the prospect of again using the old site will recall memories of good times spent there to almost all of the descendants of pioneers who are now in mature life. Black Rock and Garfield are not far apart. When the bowery was first



built on the beach at Garfield, row boats were often used to carry the people to the rock, where the swimming was done.

THOMAS BULLOCK'S DIARY.

Of the first discovery of the site, the record written by Thomas Bullock 60 years ago today, is as follows:

Tuesday 27, (July, 1847). A warm, fine morning. At half past eight o'clock a. m. Amasa Lyman, Rodney Badger, R. Stevens, and Samuel Brannan joined the camp (of the pioneers) and reported leaving the battalion on Weber river; they (the battalion boys) will be here in a day or two. Amasa Lyman and Samuel Brannan joined the council (of the twelve apostles) who were just starting on an exploring expedition—16 (men) in all. Dr. Richards reported that the council took a westerly course. Prest. (Brigham) Young in Brother (Wilford) Woodruff's carriage, crosses the River Jordan. About 1 o'clock they arrived at the foot of a mountain on the west side (of the valley) where there was a large spring

doctor (Willard Richards) rode to the top of a small hill on the right; at the same time Elder (Heber C.) Kimball rode into a cave underneath, supposed to be 60 feet long. After bathing, the party gathered a cup of beautiful white salt from the rocks and discovered a fresh water spring, somewhat brackish, near the shore of the lake. The party then proceeded west about three miles, where the road was stony for carriages. President Young and most of the party returned to their noon encampment, but Orson Pratt, Willard Richards and George A. Smith went on and one-half miles further to the opening of another valley, about 10 miles in diameter, opening through mountains on the south, and of considerable ascent on the east side. They returned to their noon camp about 10 p. m., where they camped for the night.

ORSON PRATT'S DESCRIPTION.

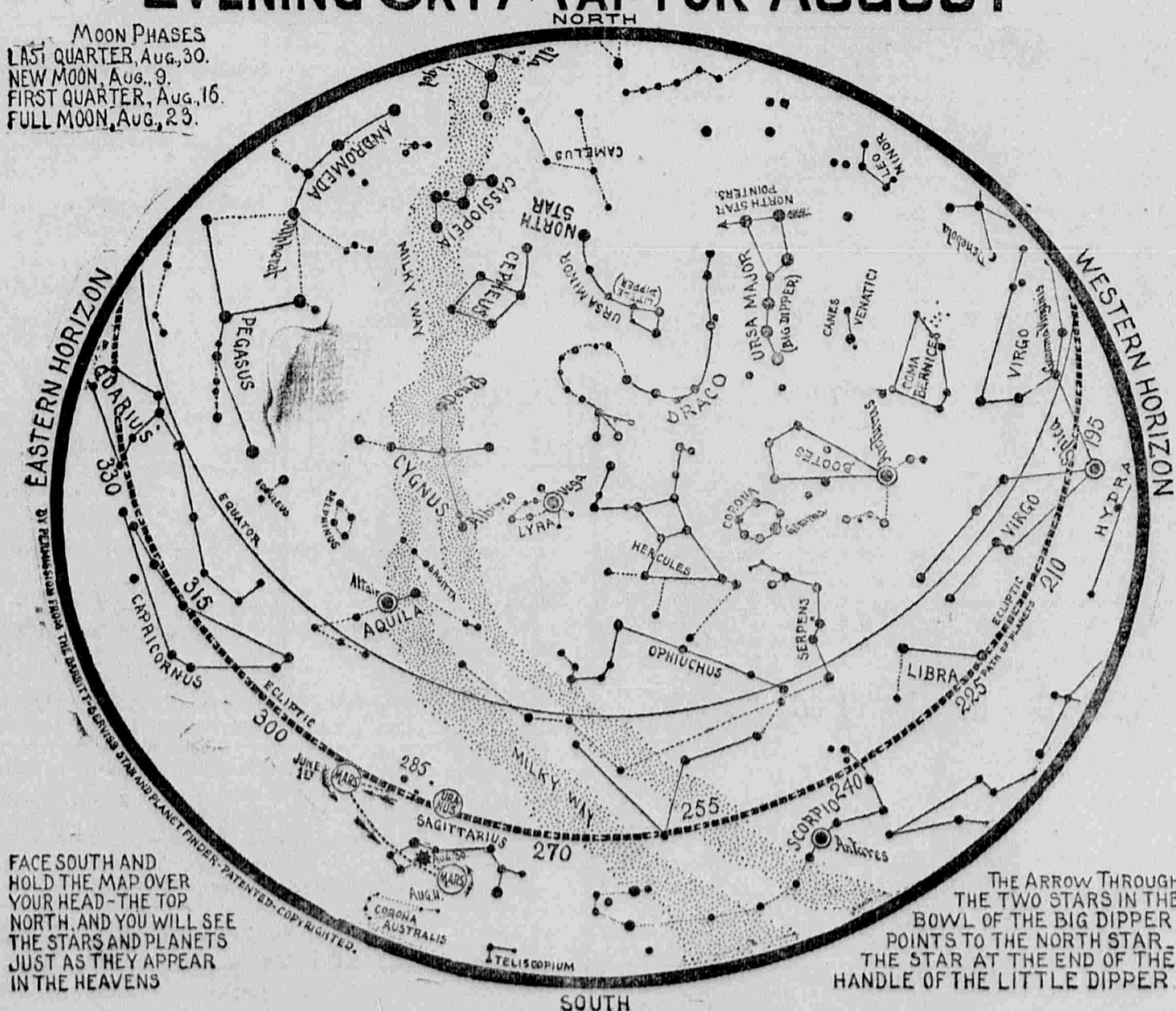
Orson Pratt, one of the party, described the trip as follows: "We directed our course west. Two or three miles brought us to a river called the Utah Outlet; it is about six rods wide and three feet deep at the ford, gravel bottom, its current is very rapid, and the water not quite as transparent as the mountain streams generally in this valley; its course is north towards the Salt Lake, into which it empties. About 13 miles further across a level prairie, with here and there a bed of a lake, which is now perfectly hard and dry, we came to the foot of a range of mountains which form the western boundary of this valley. At the foot of these mountains, at the north point, there is a stream of fresh water, very little brackish. We halted here a short time for the horses to feed. About six miles further west, following the emigrant trail, brought us to the Great Salt Lake, which here made up near the base of the mountains. We all bathed in the salt water, which is fully saturated with salt; its specific gravity is such as to buoy us up to a remarkable manner; the water was very transparent; the bottom is sandy. We continued on about four miles further, when we reached a valley (Loose valley), putting up to the southward from the lake. This valley we judged to be about 12 miles in diameter. On the south there was a small opening, which we supposed might be a continuation of the valley, or an opening into a plain beyond. It was nearly dark, and we concluded to return to the place of our noon halt, where we encamped for the night."

G. B. BURHANS TESTIFIES AFTER FOUR YEARS

G. B. Burhans, of Carlisle Center, N. Y., writes: "About four years ago I wrote stating that I had been entirely cured of a severe kidney trouble by taking less than two bottles of Foley's Kidney Cure. It entirely stopped the brick dust sediment, and pain and symptoms of kidney disease disappeared. I am glad to say that I have never had a return of any of these symptoms during the four years that have elapsed and I am evidently cured to stay cured, and heavily recommend Foley's Kidney Cure to any one suffering from kidney or bladder trouble." For sale by Hill Drug Co., "The Never Substitutors."

EVENING SKY MAP FOR AUGUST

MOON PHASES
LAST QUARTER, Aug. 30.
NEW MOON, Aug. 9.
FIRST QUARTER, Aug. 16.
FULL MOON, Aug. 23.



FACE SOUTH AND HOLD THE MAP OVER YOUR HEAD—THE TOP NORTH, AND YOU WILL SEE THE STARS AND PLANETS JUST AS THEY APPEAR IN THE HEAVENS

THE ARROW THROUGH THE TWO STARS IN THE BOWL OF THE BIG DIPPER POINTS TO THE NORTH STAR, THE STAR AT THE END OF THE HANDLE OF THE LITTLE DIPPER.

(Copyrighted by Leon Barritt, 1907.) IN midsummer evenings, when all the world is out of doors, the heavens, although less brilliant with great constellations than in winter, are very attractive. A few of the most magnificent stars of the first magnitude are then better situated for observation than at any other season. We shall refer to some of these presently, but just now the planet Mars commands the principal share of attention. As was remarked in the monthly article for July, Mars is this summer conspicuous in the August evenings, because he rises earlier. His red lantern may be seen as soon as the twilight has faded, hanging just above the southeastern horizon, and between 9 and 10 o'clock he is in the position shown by the chart. His extreme southern declination—due to the fact that he is now in that part of his orbit which is farthest below, or south, both of the plane of the equator and the ecliptic—is a disadvantage for those who wish

to study, with telescopes, his wonderfully variegated and interesting surface. This is always the case when an opposition occurs in the summer or autumn, and since it is during such oppositions that Mars approaches nearest to the earth, the details of his southern hemisphere are more readily visible than of his northern hemisphere. The south polar snow cap is still very large and bright, but it will diminish with the advance of the summer in the southern hemisphere of Mars, until, at last, it will become a comparatively tiny patch of white. With small telescopes the polar snow is, perhaps, the most conspicuous detail visible on the planet. But spots of his dark areas, formerly called "seas" and "oceans," are also visible with telescopes of moderate power, while with larger instruments they appear prominent, and some of them can be easily charted. Outside the belt of the polar cap two principal colors characterize the surface of Mars. The dark areas, just spoken of, have sometimes a dusky bluish tint, while the lighter areas are reddish or reddish-yellow in tone. Since the old theory that the dusky areas represent "seas" has been almost universally abandoned the more recent theory of Prof. Percival Lowell has taken its

place. According to this theory these areas are probably marshy regions covered with vegetation, while the red regions are great deserts, of the type of the Sahara, where no vegetation grows, and where no life can exist except such as is artificially nourished. This artificial nourishment is supposed to be provided for by a gigantic system of irrigation. The alleged evidence of the existence of such a system is furnished by the famous Martian "canals." These, in their entirety, are only to be seen with a few of the most powerful telescopes in the world, and under exceptionally favorable conditions. When thus seen, they appear by hundreds, crossing and criss-crossing the red areas, and forming at their points of conjunction distinctly visible knots, which have been called "oases." Inasmuch as the "canals" are, in many instances, a thousand, or even two thousand miles long, and from fifty to a hundred miles broad, it has been thought that these cannot be true canals, but that they are rather bands of irrigation where water is provided by means of thousands of actual canals, too small to be seen from the earth. This water is supposed to be furnished by the annual melting of the polar snows, since Mars, as compared with

the earth, is a nearly "dried-up" planet, and possesses no other visible source of water supply. It may be added that the atmosphere of Mars appears to be no denser than that on the summit of our loftiest mountains, and that clouds are rarely seen in it. Its surface appears to be very level, with few or no mountains. The distance of Mars from the sun being about 50 per cent greater than that of the earth, it receives less than half as much solar light and heat as the earth gets. The rarity of its atmosphere world, in itself, tend to increase the cold, but this may be counterbalanced by influences of which we know nothing.

Saturn, in the western end of the constellation Pisces, rises between 9 and 10 o'clock in August, but will not become a conspicuous evening star until September, when we shall devote some attention to its peculiarities. Mercury, Venus and Jupiter are all morning stars.

THE STARS AND CONSTELLATIONS

Almost directly overhead glows the beautiful Vega in the constellation Lyra. In brightness it is above the average of first magnitude stars, while the brilliancy of its blue-white rays is almost unrivaled. To appreciate the color of Vega it should be examined with a glass. A good opera-glass shows it well, but, of course, a telescope is better. In the telescope the disk of the star appears like a core of white fire encircled with a glare of bright blue flame. If the eye piece is put a little out of focus the splendor of the display is increased. When examining Vega thus with a glass it is very interesting to turn from it to its great yellow-white rival Arcturus, which appears high in the western part of the sky, in the constellation Boötes. Arcturus is also very beautiful on account of the glare surrounding its disk in the telescope, but this glare, in striking contrast to that of Vega, is of a rich golden red hue. In a word Vega resembles a diamond of the most resplendent blue-white tint, while Arcturus is like a great, deep-tinted opal. Both are stars of enormous magnitude, exceeding our sun at least a thousand times in actual brightness. Directly east of Vega lies the striking figure of the Northern Cross in the constellation Cygnus. The beam of the cross follows the current of the Milky Way, its head being marked by the bright star Deneb, and its foot by the beautiful double-star Albireo, described

last month. Directly west of Vega is seen the constellation Hercules, the central part of which consists of a quadrilateral figure with a star at each corner. Following the course of the Milky Way toward the south from the Northern Cross one comes to the little constellation Aquila, called the "Eagle of the Winds." It has all these remarkable stars, one nearly of the first magnitude, Altair, with a smaller attendant on each side. Below Aquila the Milky Way becomes very brilliant, passing underneath Ophiuchus and Serpens, and reaching the southern horizon between the tail of Scorpio and the feet of Sagittarius, the Archer. A large and brilliant part of the stream is diverted through the center of Scorpio. The latter constellation lies near the southwestern horizon, its bright star the red Antares resembling Altair in having an attendant star on either hand. Near the horizon in the southeast appear the relatively inconspicuous constellations Capricornus, Aquarius, Scorpions, and Sagittarius. Capricornus and Aquarius are all zodiacal constellations, that is to say, they lie in the zodiac, the broad band encircling the heavens, and having the ecliptic for its central line. In the east the great square of Pegasus is seen rising, and in the northeast stars

ing from the corner of the square runs a line of second magnitude stars which are the chief brilliancy of Andromeda, the chained maiden. On the west side of the pole is the great dipper with the handle uppermost, and, as if balanced against it, on the east side of the pole one sees Cassiopeia, whose five brightest stars imitate the figure of an irregular letter "W." Directly above the pole and below Vega and Hercules is the head of Draco, the great starry serpent of the north, which, making a double curve, extends its tail to a point between the bowl of the great dipper and the pole. One of the most important "show-ers" of meteors, or shooting stars, occurs on the 10th and 11th of August. Its center of radiation is from the constellation Perseus which rises in the northeast about 10 p. m. One should watch until midnight for these meteors, and an attentive observer is sure to see several and perhaps many, in the course of an hour.

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