

THE EASTERN STAR.

How Tycho Brahe's Discovery Started the World.

Was it the Star of Bethlehem? What Astronomical Science and Imagination Develop.

One of the most interesting legends connected with the history of astronomy is that which seeks to identify the blazing star that appeared in the time of Tycho Brahe, the Danish astronomer, with the "Star in the East," that led the Magi to the cradle of Christ in Bethlehem.

In the circumstances of its appearance Tycho's star may be said to have made a truly dramatic entrance upon the scene. There is considerable uncertainty as to the precise date when it became visible, but Tycho himself saw it for the first time on the evening of the 11th of November, 1572.

He was then about 23 years of age and was experimenting in the chemistry of that day, which concerned itself chiefly with the discovery of some means of making gold.

He was returning home from his chemical laboratory when he saw the star. It was in the constellation of Cassiopeia, nearly in the zenith and only about 25 degrees from the pole.

Living as he then did at Herdroad abbey, in Denmark, at nearly 55 degrees of north latitude, Tycho was able to watch the star in its journey all the way around the pole, for the star was only about 25 degrees from the pole, and when it was under the pole star it was nearly 25 degrees above the horizon.

The changes in color that the star underwent were not a constant phenomenon, but were brilliantly white; gradually it turned yellow; later on, about five or six months after its first appearance, its hue became fiery or reddish, and it was then that it faded color, and remained thus as long as it could be seen.

Tycho proved that his wonderful phenomenon was not a comet, as was supposed, and not an opposition as near to the earth as the moon and the planets are, but that it was situated among the fixed stars. He did not fully comprehend the meaning of what he thus established, because he had a very inadequate and incorrect idea of the distance of the fixed stars.

It was not until the time of the average distance of the fixed stars (and it probably was then, when it blazed most brilliantly, it must have poured forth at least ten thousand and a hundred thousand times as much light as our sun gives).

Some astronomers have thought that the outbreak of this strange star was due to the effects of a collision involving a sun ordinarily too faint, through distance, to be visible from the earth. But suppose that such a collision had taken place, the center of a system of worlds, what became of them when their orbit of day suddenly burst into an furnace two hundred thousand-fold as intense as it had been before?

But one only needs to read the account of the star of the Magi in the second chapter of Matthew to see that it could only be identified with such a phenomenon as Tycho's star by a very liberal use of the Oriental imagination.

always been there. Some comparatively recent observations suggest that this little star is slightly variable in its light. Astronomers may be said to be a little suspicious of it; they admit the possibility that the twinkling may be due to the very orb which in Tycho's time astonished the world with its sudden but fleeting splendor.

It has been estimated that the two oppositions previous to 1572 were 319 years apart, while between the latter of these and 1572 only 98 years intervened. The mean of these two periods would be 312 years. It is now about two months more than 329 years since Tycho, looking up at the sky, was astonished to see a magnificent new star blazing over his head.

It is now over six years and eight months, estimating by the mean annual period, and it is now nearly 334 years, as judged by the time elapsed between the years 945 and 1284. If the supposed appearance of the years last named rested upon solid evidence, it might, with some confidence, still expect to see Tycho's star again.

But the evidence on which the whole question is based is so flimsy that we can only wait and wait, confident that if the strange star does appear, it will be in the year 1974, and let it escape until it has told us its story.

It is a fact that the most marvelous of all that the heavens have unveiled, the "Star of the East," was seen in Seattle, Wash., on the 11th of November, 1892. It was in the constellation of Cassiopeia, nearly in the zenith and only about 25 degrees from the pole.

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AN ORIENTAL ECHO.

A Poem From the Hungarian of Maurus Zokat.

How an Eastern King Stole a Pearl of Priceless Value and Died for His Treachery.

Signmund Krausz furnishes the following translation: In the water of beautiful Guadalquivir, Almeriza, daughter of Iulian, is bathing alone in the shade of weeping willows.

Oh, snowy neck! Oh, raven hair! King Roderick was walking to and fro on the terrace of his palace. Far into distance extends the view. The sun is just sinking into sea; way beyond stretch the ridges of the Atlas on the plains of a blessed Iberia the almond trees are blooming.

But the king has no eye for the shesking sun, nor glances for the mountains, at the foot of which a warlike enemy has struck his tents, none for Iberia's paradisaic eyes. He sees only a blooming maiden who is bathing in the blue river, and whose dazzling neck is chastely shaded by sable ringlets.

The king turns to his courtiers: "Who is your maiden fair? Yon, who is bathing in the shadow of the weeping willows; who is the beautiful maiden from that fairy spring of foam? I love the maiden with ardent, all-consuming fervor!"

And thus the courtiers answer: "Alas, my king, you are probably to be sorry for Iulian, the general, who is fighting for ties against the infidels across the sea. Avert this eye from her, oh king!"

Oh, snowy neck! Oh, raven hair! The general across the sea has been victorious, and he has slain the enemies of the king. Laden with money and crowned with glory, he is marching home.

On the day the evil tidings reach him: "Oh, glorious victor, do not hurry home so gladly! The king has robbed thee of thy daughter, thy only, beautiful daughter. Now thou hast to go to love, he has forcibly abducted and carried off to his palace, as she was bathing alone in the Guadalquivir."

And the king, who is fighting for ties against the infidels across the sea, averts this eye from her, oh king! Oh, snowy neck! Oh, raven hair! Iulian returns to Africa to the red-sand desert where Tarik, the powerful, reigns over the free tribes.

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THE SKY REFLECTED THE GLOW OF BURNING CHARCOAL.

Both May Be Found in the Tub if Properly Used.

MR. CLEVELAND'S CHARITY.

Two or three years ago, before Mrs. Cleveland had Baby Ruth to occupy her time, the project of the White House devoted all her spare moments to the work of establishing a system of free kindergartens in New York City.

A kindergarten association was formed, with Richard Watson Glider, the editor of the Century Magazine, as President, Mrs. Cleveland took possession of the room and reigned from one shore to the other. For seven centuries he appointed the Kings of Spain.

Every Christmas Mrs. Cleveland sends a Christmas tree to Miss Young's kindergarten and liberally supplies it with dolls and toys for the girls and their mothers, and for the parents of the children.

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BATHS FOR HEALTH AND PLEASURE.

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