LATEST VA. RETURNS

BRYAN'S PLURALITY ABOUT TWENTY THOUSAND.

EIGHT CONGRESSMEN.

This Number Certain—One District in Doubt, and General James A. Walker Certainly Re-Elected in the Ninth District.

Up to the hour of going to press the State seems to have gone for Bryan by about 20,000 plurality. The following are the pluralities in the several congressional districts:

DEMOCRATIC.

First District	4,000
Second District	2,000
Third District	4,000
Fourth District	2,000
Fifth District	404
Sixth District	4,956
Seventh District	2,000
Eighth District	2,000
Tenth District	.....
Total	21,320

REPUBLICAN.

Ninth District	2,000

As a rule, our congressional nominees run ahead of Bryan and Sewall.

The Tenth District is claimed by both parties; but Mr. Button, the secretary of the Democratic State Committee, assures us that it has gone for Flood, but the plurality is not stated.

City and County Pluralities.

The following are the pluralities on the presidential vote, revised, in the light of yesterday's returns:

DEMOCRATIC PLURALITIES.

Amherst	159
Northumberland	49
Bath	58
Winchester and Frederick county	1,046
Charlotte	974
Lunenburg	684
Middlesex	7
Warren	676
Russell	84
King and Queen	289
Lee	11
Fairfax	229
Southampton	1,095
Essex	348
Pittsylvania and Danville	1,900
Bedford county	786
Nansemond	237
Madison	319
Amherst	536
Williamsburg	23
Accomac	1,510
Northampton	250
Lancaster	500
Gloucester	270
Isle of Wight	800
Nottoway	467
Brunswick	500
Franklin	1,200
Halifax	1,000
Rappahannock	421
Charlottesville	451
Albemarle	700
Clarke	650
Prince William	600
Orange	250
Alexandria city	738
Fauquier	1,100
Mathews	354
Tazewell	300
Norfolk	1,070
Loudoun	750
Highland	60
Bath	38
Lynchburg	10
Richmond city	2,716
Manchester	224
Chesterfield	700
Henrico	515
Hanover	162
Princess Anne	100
Mecklenburg	254
Portsmouth	701
Giles	250
Augusta and Staunton (4 precincts)	400
Total	28,809

REPUBLICAN PLURALITIES.

Tazewell	48
Smyth	167
Caroline	208
Washington	300
Prince Edward	100
Pulaski	370
Tazewell	923
Floyd	550
Carroll	135
Shenandoah	52
Buchanan	371
Louisa	26
Warwick	339
Elizabeth City	346
Richmond	3
Newport News	200
Patrick	150
Henry	400
Rockingham	157
Rockbridge	653
Scott	200
Cumberland (three precincts)	63
King George	89
Stafford	455
Goochland	225
King William	236
New Kent (three precincts)	160
Wise	278
Page	286
Total	7,547

FIRST DISTRICT.

Hon. William A. Jones Will Succeed Himself.

Onancock: The following is the vote of Accomac for the President—Bryan, 3,115; McKinley, 1,635; Levering, 180; Palmer, 28; Matchett, 1. For Congress—W. A. Jones (Democrat), 3,298; W. B. Tyler (Republican), 1,516; E. J. Winder (Prohibition), 16; Donahower, 19. As compared with the vote of 1892, these figures show a Democratic loss of 246 for President, and 163 for congressman. The Prohibitionists cast just two votes less in the county than they did four years ago.

KING AND QUEEN.

King and Queen Courthouse: Complete returns from this county give Bryan 289 majority; Jones, 308 majority.

MIDDLESEX.

Saluda: Middlesex, official, Bryan, 688; McKinley, 681. Congress—Jones, 702; Tyler, 646—a Democratic gain of 351.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Heathsville: Northumberland gives Jones 119 majority and Bryan 49 majority—a Democratic gain in the congressional vote and a loss in the presidential vote.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Young Rolls Up a Very Handsome Majority.

Norfolk: Complete returns from the Second District have been received from the following counties and cities only:

Norfolk City—Bryan 3,078, McKinley 1,995—Bryan's majority 1,083; Young 3,690, Wise 1,865, Whaley 543; Republican gain of 342. Portsmouth—Bryan 1,380, McKinley 679, Bryan's majority 731; Young 1,466, Wise 853, Whaley 127—Democratic gain of 6. Norfolk county—Bryan 2,140, McKinley 1,667—McKinley's majority 1,527; Young 2,469, Wise 3,290, Whaley 221—Republican gain of 1,614. Princess Anne—Bryan 831, McKinley 633—Bryan's majority 198; Young 816, Wise 629, Whaley 29—Democratic loss 88, Republican loss 96. Warwick county—Bryan 238, McKinley 815—McKinley's majority 339; Young 726, Wise 796, Whaley 255. Newport News—Bryan 238, McKinley 577—McKinley's majority 141; Young 304, Wise 456, Whaley 74. Southampton—Bryan 1,444, McKinley 445—Bryan's majority 999; Young 1,440, Wise 529, Whaley 150—Republican loss of 1,210.

Bryan's majority in the above counties, 1,974; Young's majority, 1,543.

Counting the above and all additional precincts heard from in the Second District, and statements of majorities received in counties not included in the above, Bryan's majority as far as returned is 1,709; Young's majority, 2,568.

LATER.

Elizabeth City county—Bryan 573, McKinley 919—McKinley's majority 346; Young 403; Wise 1,011, Whaley 59—Republican majority in 1892, 430. James City county—Bryan, 288, McKinley, 305—McKinley's majority 19; Young 270; Wise 531—Republican majority in 1892, 165. Williamsburg—Bryan 113; McKinley 90—Bryan's majority 23; Young 121, Wise 116, Whaley 4. York (one precinct)—Bryan 335, McKinley 60, Young 338, Wise 72. Isle of Wight (three precincts)—Bryan 407, McKinley 340—Bryan's majority in the county 542, Young 404, Wise 278, Whaley 87. In 1892 Democratic majority 758. Nansemond (nine precincts)—Bryan 294, McKinley 786—Bryan's majority in the county 30; Young 1,054, Wise 1,003, Whaley 118. Cleveland's majority in 1892 was 94.

The above represent all returns received to midnight Wednesday from Second District. All counties in the Second District, except Charles City give Bryan 1,889 majority, and Young (Democrat) a majority over Wise (Republican) of 2,568.

CAPT. LAMB'S GREAT VICTORY.

His Plurality One of the Largest Given in the State.

Captain John Lamb was one of the happiest men to be seen on Main street yesterday. He could hardly make his way through the crowd, so eager were his host of friends to shake his hand and congratulate him on defeating Lewis by 4,000 majority.

The returns from the Third District, printed in yesterday's Dispatch, were the most complete ever given here on the morning after an election. Practically all the figures were given, except from a few precincts in New Kent, King William, and Chesterfield counties, and these, which are yet to come in, will not materially affect Lamb's plurality of over 4,000. Of course, the Republicans want to contest Captain Lamb's election. That is their usual disposition.

GOOCHLAND'S VOTE IN DETAIL.

The returns from Goochland show the vote in that county to have been as follows:

	Bryan.	M'K'l'y.	L'b.	L's.
Watkinsville	42	18	42	12
Rocketts	80	125	80	118
Goochland C. H.	78	120	80	117
Bowles'	100	87	108	95
Three Square	61	92	60	86
Tabscott	43	29	43	19
Caledonia	24	63	25	63
Snead's	79	171	80	163
Trice's	57	53	62	33
Manakin	71	100	81	118
Ford's	42	52	42	52
	677	962	703	876

HANOVER (COMPLETE).

Full and complete returns from Hanover county give the vote as follows: Bryan, 1,499; McKinley, 1,337; Levering, 21; Palmer, 34; Lamb, 1,535; L. L. Lewis, 1,382; Alwood, 5; Mitchell, 1; W. H. Lewis, 14; E. L. Lewis, 13.

Bryan's plurality, 162; Lamb's plurality, 153.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Epes Is Elected by About 2,000 Majority.

Petersburg: The returns from the counties of the Fourth District are not yet all in, but there is no doubt of the election of Mr. Sidney P. Epes, the Democratic candidate, over Mr. R. T. Thorp (Republican), by a decided majority. Prince George and Dinwiddie counties both give majorities for Bryan and Epes.

PRINCE GEORGE.

Bland District—Bryan, 91; McKinley, 60; Palmer, 1; Epes, 88; Thorp, 70.

Blackwater District—Bryan, 73; McKinley, 55; Palmer, 2; Epes, 80; Thorp, 19.

Templeton District—Bryan and Epes, 61 majority.

Brandon District—McKinley and Thorp, 41 majority.

DINWIDDIE.

Sutherland—Bryan and Epes—102 majority.

New Hope—Bryan and Epes—14 majority.

LUNENBURG.

Meherrin: Full returns from Lunenburg county gives Bryan 570 majority; Epes, for Congress, 638 majority.

PRINCE EDWARD.

Farmville: Prince Edward gives the Republicans a majority of 100.

SUSSEX.

Waverly: Official returns from all the precincts in Sussex give Bryan a majority of 348, and Epes, for Congress, 207.

GREENESVILLE.

Emporia: Returns from all the precincts of this county are in. There is a good majority for Bryan, Sewall, and Epes, and Democratic gain.

COMMITTEE'S CLAIM.

Petersburg: Reports received at Fourth District headquarters, indicate that Epes has carried the district by 2,000. Bryan's vote is somewhat less.

"Old Virginia never tires."

CHARLES B. MANN,
Secretary.

FIFTH DISTRICT.

Swanson Says His Majority Is Four Hundred and Four.

Chatham: Pittsylvania give me 1,173 majority; Danville, 651; Franklin, 501. Brown carries Henry by 544; Patrick, by 419; Floyd, by 702; Carroll, by 140; Grayson, by 116, making my majority 404.

CLAUDE A. SWANSON.

SIXTH DISTRICT.

Otey Elected by a Plurality of 4,956.

Lynchburg: Lynchburg District has been heard from with fair accuracy. It re-elects Congressman Otey (Democrat) by 4,956 plurality over Radford, Bolter and Republican. In this city over 200 Democratic ballots were thrown out as defective, the new Parker ballot being long and complicated. Few Republican ballots were thrown out, as word was passed to the negroes to pretend illiteracy in order to have the judges mark their ballots. This was done in 95 per cent. of cases, and the judges being familiar with the ballot voted negroes faster than the whites could vote. In the largest white ward of the city at least 300 Democrats could not vote owing to the slowness of the poll. Following are Otey's pluralities: Halifax, 1,559; Charlotte, 1,084; Lynchburg, 173; Bedford, 800; Roanoke city, 890; Radford, 150; Campbell county, 500. Total, 5,156. From this total must be substracted 200 Republican majority in Montgomery and Roanoke counties. Otey ran considerably ahead of his ticket.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

Hay's Return Insured by a Good Plurality.

Berryville: The official vote of Clark county is: Bryan, 1,113; McKinley, 490; Palmer, 7; Levering, 14. Bryan's plurality is 623. For Congress—Hay (Democrat), 1,164; Walker (Republican), 430. Cleveland's plurality in 1892 was 709.

ORANGE.

Orange: The total vote shows 364 majority for Bryan in this county. Rixey, for Congress, runs ahead of the ticket. Madison gives between 500 and 600 majority for Bryan and Hay.

MADISON.

Madison Courthouse: Find vote of Madison below:

For Congress—Hay (Democrat), 1,145; majority 606; Walker (Republican), 539; Hansberger, 0; Forsyth, 1.

For President—Bryan, 1,012; majority, 319; McKinley, 693; Levering, 5; Palmer, 0.

One precinct to hear from will give Hay 60 majority. Madison has covered herself with glory.

SHENANDOAH.

Woodstock: McKinley, 52 majority; Hay, 74 majority.

WINCHESTER AND FREDERICK.

Winchester: Complete official returns from Winchester and Frederick county give Bryan 1,046 majority over McKinley. Hay, for Congress, runs slightly ahead of Bryan.

GREENE.

Barboursville: Greene county gives McKinley 48 majority over Bryan for President. Walker's (Republican) majority over Hay (Democrat) for Congress is 36. Palmer and Buckner did not get a vote in the county.

SHENANDOAH.

Woodstock: Correct, but unofficial, returns from all the precincts of this (Shenandoah) county gave McKinley a plurality of 48 over Bryan—a gain of 555 over the vote of 1892—and Hay, for Congress, over Walker, a majority of 67—a gain for Hay of 202 over Walker's majority over Turner in 1894. Palmer received 43 votes in the county. The vote for Walker, who is from this county, is discouraging to the Republicans, as they claimed the county by 500.

PAGE.

Luray: Page county gives McKinley a plurality of 286 votes over Bryan—a Democratic loss on the vote of 1892 of 710. The returns on the vote for Congress are not fully known, but it is likely that the plurality of Walker (Republican) over Hay (Democrat) will fall slightly below that for McKinley. A very small vote was polled for the Palmer ticket, though Harnsberger, for Congress, ran ahead of his ticket. The election passed off quietly.

WARREN.

Front Royal: Bryan's majority in Warren county is 697; Hay's, over Walker, 616—a Democratic loss of 158.

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

Following, With Previous Returns, Elect Rixey.

Stafford: McKinley, 1,081; Bryan, 629; Rixey, 640; McCaull, 1,071.

LOUISA.

Louisa: McKinley carried the county by 26 majority. Harrison's majority in 1892 was 77. Rixey, for Congress, received a majority over McCaull of 52.

LOUDOUN.

Leesburg: The full vote of Loudoun county gives Bryan 2,740; McKinley, 1,990. For Congress, Rixey gets 2,735; McCaull, 1,964. Bryan's vote is an increase of 20 over the Democratic vote of 1892. McKinley's is an increase of 252 over the Republican vote of the same year.

NINTH DISTRICT.

Walker, the Republican Candidate, Is Re-Elected.

Wytheville: Full reports from this district have not been received, but Judge Williams (Democrat) has been defeated by Walker (Republican) by 2,000 to 2,500—a loss to the Democrats on the vote of 1894 of 1,000 to 1,500.

TENTH DISTRICT.

State-Secretary Button Claims That Flood Is Elected.

Appomattox: Flood is elected by a close, but safe, majority. The eastern counties gave him good majorities.

JOSEPH BUTTON.

AMHERST.

Amherst: Amherst county gave Bryan 536 majority; Flood, 574 majority. This is official.

HIGHLAND.

Monterey: Returns from all the districts in this county give Bryan a majority of 66; Flood, a majority of 30. In 1892 Cleveland's majority was 245.

ROCKBRIDGE.

Lexington: Unofficial returns give McKinley 653 majority; Yost (Republican), for Congress, 702 majority—a Republican gain of over 1,500.

BATH.

Hot Springs: Full official returns for Bath county give Flood (Democrat) a majority of 52, and Bryan 38 majority. The decoy ticket had three votes in the county.

THE YOSEMITE.

Highest and Grandest Cataract of the World.

(New York Times.)

Professor Albert S. Bickmore, of the American Museum of Natural History, gave yesterday morning the third of his series of lectures to teachers of New York and vicinity. The success of these lectures has far exceeded his anticipations. At the first lecture he had an audience of 837, at the second 1,015, and at the lecture given on Thursday night to members of the museum there was an audience of 850, making a total of 2,702 for the three lectures.

Thursday night Professor Bickmore began the series of lectures to members of the museum. There will be eight of these, four to be given before and four after the holidays. A membership in the museum entitles one to four season tickets to these lectures on Thursday nights.

As a sign of increasing interest in Professor Bickmore's work, it may be stated that the Superintendent of Schools for New Jersey is trying to arrange to have the lectures repeated to teachers of that State.

The subject of the lectures given yesterday morning was "California and the Yosemite Valley." Seventy-four views of scenery in that famous valley, in the forests of the Sierras, and in different sections of California, were thrown upon the screen. They were beautifully executed.

As usual, the Professor began at the beginning, and threw on the screen a fine detailed map of California, illustrating the elevation of its great mountain ranges—the Sierra Nevada, and the Coast Range. The Sierras are remarkably parallel with the coast-line of the continent, following its long sweep of indentations. In explaining the origin of the name California, the Professor said that when the New World was discovered it gave a great impetus to thought in all fields. Daring men ventured upon the new region of sea in the hope of finding other continents and new wonders. Literature was stimulated, and one of its manifestations was a romance, the most popular one of its time, describing a fabulous island in the Atlantic, called "California." About the year 1534, when Cortez and the Spaniards had made their way through Mexico, to the Pacific, and sailed up the coast to Southern California, they believed they had discovered an island, and gave to it the name of the island in the romance—"California."

The present State of California lies between latitude 32 and 42 degrees, or extending for 10 degrees along the Pacific. It consists of two mountain ranges, with a valley between. The range of mountains near the sea is known as the Coast Range and the other as the Sierra Nevada, or the snow mountains, which is the meaning of their Spanish name.

The next view was that of the Golden Gate, the entrance to the wonderful and beautiful harbor of San Francisco. The entrance is about one mile in width, and is a gap or break in the Coast Range. It leads into San Francisco bay, fifty miles long. The city of San Francisco was located in 1846. In 1848 it had a population of 500; in 1850 it had a population of 25,000. The present population is about a quarter of a million. In 1884 the surplus wheat crop of the State was so great that it would have loaded 1,000 ships with 1,000 tons each. Between 1854 and 1891 the State had contributed of its gold production $1,000,000,000.

After a hurried glance over the State and its metropolis, the Professor took his audience to the famous Yosemite Valley. This is now a public park, like the Yellowstone. It was originally quite small, inclosing the valley itself, but the area has been extended until it embraces about thirty-three miles square. By a recent act of Congress there has been added to it, although the government still retains guardianship over it, the vast region known as the Sierra Forest Reserve, which makes the park reservation about 150 miles square.

The Valley of the Yosemite is about one mile to one mile and a half in width, and six miles long. The first great natural scenery shown to the audience was in the Mariposa Grove, with its gigantic sequoias. The Grizzly Giant and Wawona, the two most famous of the great trees, were shown on the screen. Wawona is the tree through whose hollow trunk stage coaches are driven. When the Professor was driven through it in a coach with four the heads of the front horses were at one end of the opening through the trunk, while the end of the coach was at the other, the length of the coach and horses exactly marking the diameter of the huge tree. These trees are the Sequoia Gigantea, and are the tallest trees on the earth, except the eucalyptus giants of Australia, which are smaller in size of trunk, but considerably taller. The Grizzly Giant is 93 1-2 feet in circumference, 31 feet in diameter, and about 270 feet high. One gigantic specimen in the Calaveras Forest is 105 feet in circumference and 276 feet high. The monarch of the grove is fallen, and half of its mighty trunk has been consumed by fire or has decayed. It is known as the Mammoth.

The formation of the Yosemite Valley was explained. Scientists believe that it was caused by subsidence—that is, a block of the granite mountains has sunk to a tremendous depth, creating this valley, and leaving on each side of it perpendicular cliffs that tower 3,000 to 4,000 feet above the almost level floor of the valley itself. The peculiarities of the valley may be given in a sentence. They are, first, its sides are almost perpendicular; second, the great height of the cliffs and the width of valley between them, and, finally, the small amount of debris at the foot of the granite walls.

More than twenty views were shown of the most interesting features of the Yosemite Valley. The most beautiful views were Inspiration Point, El Capitan, rising 3,300 feet above the floor of the valley; Bridal Veil Falls, the Three Brothers, Cathedral Rocks, and Spires, Sentinel Rock, and the falls themselves. The cataract is, taken together, the highest in the world. From where it leaps from the thin lip of granite, on its first plunge into the depths, the fall is 2,600 feet. The first sheer fall is 1,600 feet; then it winds in and out among precipitous crags and falls 600 feet; and, finally, takes its last plunge of 400 feet into the bosom of the quiet valley. It has two rivals in the cataracts of the world. One of its competitors is the renowned Gavarnie of the Pyrenees, which has a fall of 1,385 feet, and the other is in Norway, the Doegerfos, which falls sheer 1,485 feet. The word "Yosemite" is the Indian name for a "full-grown bear."

One of the great curiosities of the valley is the Half Dome. The wonder of it is, what has become of the other half. It has disappeared, and the original dome seems cleft in twain. The opinion of scientists is that the other half lies in the valley at the foot of Half Dome. It is supposed that the valley beneath the mountain was of tremendous depth, and that the subsidence of one-half of the dome only partially filled it.

The lecture was fittingly closed by a number of views of California flowers and fruit. The poppy, the flowering datura tree, or trumpet flower, and the pears and palms of Southern California were thrown upon the screen with every detail of color perfect and lifelike. Then came pictures of the two extremes of that wonderful State; at the northern bound, a barren peak overlooking the Pacific; at the southern, the cocoanut palms of San Diego. Between the two is found every climate and almost every product of the world.

HUMAN HEARTBEATS SEEN.

Successful Experiments with the X-Ray at Michigan University.

An Ann Arbor (Mich.) dispatch to the Chicago Chronicle says:

Some remarkable experiments have been conducted at the physical laboratory of Michigan University lately. Professor H. S. Carhart had charge of the experiments, and was assisted by Dean V. C. Vaughan, of the medical department, and Drs. W. J. Herdman and F. G. Novey. By means of skilfully-contrived apparatus these gentlemen and a few invited guests were able to see the heart pulsations of a living man and watch the play of the bones in various parts of the body when in motion. It was a marvellous sight, and one that inspired the less scientific beholders with profound awe. When the guests entered the room in which the experiments were to be tried there was nothing in sight but a lot of familiar electrical apparatus.

A new induction coil stood on a table. Four cells of a storage battery stood under the table. A resistance coil stood alongside. A few scraps of insulated wire, a pair of Crookes tubes, and a curious-looking box completed the equipment. It was soon explained that this box was the important element in the experiment. The spectator was to glue his eyes to the opening at the small end and look hard at the black pasteboard in front of him. The room was then darkened and the battery turned on, a new Crookes tube of great power being put in the circuit. As soon as the box was turned toward the tube the inky darkness of the interior of the box disappeared and the black pasteboard became grayish white, like a pane of ground glass.

Professor Carhart then thrust his hand between the tube, now brilliant with the peculiar greenish phosphorescent light that accompanies the production of the X-rays, and every bone became distinctly visible on the pasteboard screen, surrounded by a cloudy outline showing the limits of the fleshy covering. The X-ray photograph is shadowy, vague and unsatisfactory compared to the results obtained in this new manner. The thinnest gauze more obscures an object to the eye in sunlight, than did the covering of skin and muscle obscure the bones in Professor Carhart's hand. Then his wrist was put in and his arm to the shoulder. The wrist was turned, the elbow flexed and straightened, and the arm twisted back and forth. It was like watching a skeleton in a slight haze mysteriously endowed with the power of self-emotion. The clothing was no hindrance to the vision, the rays passing through clothing as readily as the naked flesh.

Then Dr. Novy tried a few objects in the field, and finally sat before the tube and allowed the spectators to count his ribs. Suddenly it was discovered that the heart was visible, and that its pulsations could be watched and counted. The heart was misty in outline, not distinct like the bones, but there it was, moving regularly, and the spectator counted its pulsations, while Dr. Herdman stood with his finger on Dr. Novy's pulse to verify the count, and make sure it was not the flickering of the light that misled the eye.

The inside of the screen to the curious box was covered with a layer of tungstate of calcium, by means of which layer the X-rays were transferred into rays of light that affect the eye, thus making the X-ray visible. An effort will be made after awhile to fix a large screen in a doorway, so that all of a large audience in a dark room can see the pictures simultaneously, the room supplanting the box. In this way the whole skeleton of a man may, perhaps, be shown at once, and at the same time walking about.

To Cure a Cold In One Day

take laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. Druggists refund money if fails to cure. 25c.

NOVEMBER METEOR SHOWERS.

Great Shows Looked for Two and Three Years Hence.

(Tribune.)

The most magnificent display of celestial fireworks known to modern astronomy is that afforded once in about thirty-three years by the meteor swarm which seems to come flying at us from the constellation Leo. Although the recurrence of this phenomenon in its fullest glory may not be expected until 1899 or 1900, there is a chance of some faint preliminary indications of it within the next two weeks. The wonderful exhibitions of 1833 and of 1866 were preceded by brilliant meteor showers in mid-November, in 1831 and 1832, and again in 1864 and 1865. Though any one particular bit of stone belonging to the Leonid system requires thirty-three and a quarter years to traverse its elliptical orbit, yet the swarm is sufficiently stretched out to spend three years in passing the point where its path intersects the earth's through the heavens. And the tendency to become more and more widely distributed as time goes on has been observed often enough in the behavior of similar aggregations, like the "Perseids," which come in early August, for instance, to excite anticipations of an increase of straggling among the Leonids. The precise time for the earth's arrival at the cross roads is November 13th. But as there is a chance that a few wanderers may stray a good deal to one side or the other of the central line of march, professional and amateur star-gazers will probably keep close watch for the three or four days preceding and following that date.

Almost every one who has given any attention to the geography of the heavens is familiar with the group of stars forming a sickle, in the constellation of Leo. It is from a point within the hook of the blade, near the star Zeta, that the meteors of this system seem to radiate. As Leo does not rise at this time of year until about 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning, the majority of observers will wait until just before dawn before trying to look for the early November shooting stars. By 5 or 6 o'clock the sickle will have nearly reached the zenith.

There is another swarm, which seems to proceed from a spot in Andromeda, and which comes into the earth's neighborhood once in thirteen years. The last two encounters with these meteors occurred in 1872 and 1885. The next one is due in 1898; but a lookout will also be kept for them this year, although there is little chance of seeing much. Besides, at best, the Andromedes make no such show as the Leonids. The constellation of Andromeda, however, is in a convenient position for scrutiny, lying a little to the northeast of the zenith at 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening, and on the meridian at about 10 P. M., when the Andromedes are due, November 27th or 28th. Fortunately, the moon this year keeps out of the way of those who may be hunting for meteors belonging to either of the two systems here referred to.

The late November meteors are believed to be the wreckage of Biela's comet, which split in two in 1846, reappeared as twins in 1852, and then failed to come back at all as a comet. Similarly, the swarm with which the earth assumes intimate relations early in August nearly every year, the Perseids, follows a path which has been found to be identical with another (Tuttle's) comet. At least half a dozen such cases of similarly of orbit between a wrecked comet and a meteor swarm have been discovered; so that now a close relationship between the two is strongly suspected. Among these parallels is that existing between the routes of a certain "long-period" comet observed (in 1899) by Tempel, and the Leonids. However, as these meteors were seen not only in 1833 and 1799, but perhaps centuries ago, they are not to be regarded as the sole remnants of the comet, but possibly the fragments of a piece of the original comet. One might assume, for instance, that the comet had at some period of its history been divided, like Biela's, and that one part continued to maintain its individuality, but that the other went entirely to pieces. The famous astronomer Leverrier, after careful computation, reached the conclusion that the Tempel comet and Leonids, separate or united, were drawn into the solar system from the outer space by the attractive influence of the planet Uranus, away back in the year 126 A. D. But there are records of famous meteor showers on October 19, 902, and October 24, 1202; and these, it is now strongly suspected, were due to the same swarm of tiny flying bodies, which give rise to our early November displays. It should be remembered, by the way, that even the nucleus of a comet is generally supposed to be an aggregation of very small objects, and not a solid mass; but just how closely packed together they are when they first come within observation Professor Young says it is hard to tell.

Brilliant as is the momentary effect produced when "shooting stars" enter the range of vision, the material of which they are composed remains cold and nonluminous until they invade the earth's atmosphere. It is the heat produced by friction with the air which causes them to glow. And if the body be very small—like a pea—it is almost instantly consumed. But if it weighs several ounces, or, what is more unusual, several pounds, it may survive the ordeal and either reach the surface of the earth or else escape again to interplanetary space.

While these swarms appear to come from the distant constellations, they do not in fact. Their orbits are elliptical, one end encircling the sun and the other lying out near some of the large planets of the solar system. The stars of Leo, Andromeda, and Perseus merely form a background which is really millions of times further away than the most distant point reached by the unconsumed meteors on their outward-bound trips. But by a careful hunt for the central points from which they seem to proceed, the expert astronomer is able to learn something of the history of each swarm. Each meteor track is plotted on a map of the heavens as accurately as possible, and after a number of such tracks have been charted they begin to assume a relation to each other which one would not have suspected. The coolest and most experienced observer, however, is liable to make trifling errors in his record, but now that it is possible to photograph meteors, with a background of stars, far greater precision is obtainable than was practicable before. Max Wolf, of Heidelberg, Germany, in this way pictured several aerolites accidentally, while hunting other celestial game with his camera. In like manner, nearly four years ago, J. E. Lewis, of Ansonia, Conn., an amateur, also got a meteor's track on his plate while photographing a comet. Since that time several deliberate attempts to secure such pictures have been made under the direction of the Yale Observatory, the latest one occuring last August. Thus far, however, the result has been unsatisfactory, owing to the lack of sensitiveness of the plates employed. Such experiments ought to succeed better with Leonids than Perseids, one would suppose, from the differences in the actinic effect of the two. The latter are yellowish, and the former green or blue. It is certainly to be hoped that Dr. Elkins will have his apparatus in good working order by 1899. Yet, if there should be 250,000 flashes inside of five hours, as there were in Boston in 1833, the plates would need to be changed with great frequency to prevent blurring and defeating the whole purpose of the work.

WOMEN KEPT OFF THE THRONE.

Salic Law In Effect In Denmark, Sweden, and Other Countries.

A relic of prehistoric barbarism, of times when women were regarded as soulless being, but one remove superior to the brute creation, is that Salic law which debars the fair sex from all rights of succession to most of the thrones of Europe, says the Cincinnati Enquirer. No one knows with any degree of certainty the origin of this law, although many theories and arguments have been advanced regarding it, yet there is no law that has been the cause of so much bloodshed and desolation throughout the last 800 years.

Nearly all the historic wars that have taken place in Europe since the days of the first Crusade may be attributed to the existence of this law, and even in the present century sanguinary struggles have taken place on its account. Great Britain and Russia are the only two countries where it has never secured any foothold, and neither the one nor the other has ever had any reason to regret its sound sense in the matter, since the sovereigns who have contributed most largely to the glory of the country have been women.

Spain, Portugal, and Holland have within the last hundred years erased the law from their statute books, and have benefited by the change, while since the reign of Maria Theresa and the seven-years' war it exists only in a modified form in Austria, and perhaps not at all in the Kingdom of Hungary.

But it is still in force in Denmark, in Sweden, in Prusia, and all the other federal States of the German empire, as well as in Belgium, Italy, Roumania, Servia, Bulgaria, and Greece, the national Constitution of which, being of a more mushroom character, and drawn up by enlightened statesmen of the present century, might reasonably be expected to be more up-to-date and free from such Mediaeval prejudices and doctrines.

Under the circumstances, it must be a matter of regret that the Salic law should debar a number of beautiful, charming, and clever princesses from succeeding to thrones. Thus, there is the pretty Princess Pauline of Wurtemberg, now in her 19th year, the only child of the present King, and a young girl, whom it is no exaggeration to describe as the national idol.

Yet, notwithstanding the fact that all the affection of the people is centered in her, she is compelled by the Salic law to stand aside and to permit her father's crown to descend to a distant cousin, born and bred, not in Wurtemberg, but in Austria.

Although King Oscar, of Norway, is one of the most enlightened and accomplished of men, endowed with a character that can only be described as unblemished, he has not proved a successful ruler.

The fact is that the King, in spite of all his talents and his perfections, moral and otherwise, is entirely wanting in that personal magnetism and that public tact which distinguished his homely, genial, and by no means so intellectual brother, King Charles XV.

The latter had only one daughter, Princess Louisa, who inherited his qualities, and who, in spite of her plainness, was just as much the idol of both the Norwegians and Swedes as Princess Pauline, of Wurtemberg, is at Stutgart. Over six feet high, and far from being endowed with intellect above the average, she possesses the best temper in the world, and an inexhaustible fund of merriment and good humor, and a heart as big as her laugh, which has been compared to that of a horse.

Had she been permitted to succeed her father as Queen Regent of Sweden and Norway, it is doubtful whether the present conflict in the sister kingdom would ever have arrived at the acute stage, and certainly the loyalty to the throne on both sides of the border would not have reached its present low ebb. But, being debarred from her father's throne by the Salic law, she married the Crown Prince of Denmark, carrying out of the country of her birth all the vast wealth which she had inherited, partly from her father and partly, too, from her Dutch granduncle, which is estimated at £5,000,000.

It is to the Salic law that the kingdom of Hanover is indebted for the loss of its independence and for its absorption by Prussia, with all the disadvantages which that entails, economic, political, and social. Had Queen Victoria not been barred by this statute from succeeding to the throne of Hanover at the time when she ascended that of Great Britain, there is no doubt that Hanover would have been enjoying at the present moment the same commercial prosperity and manifold advantages which have fallen to the lot of the English since the beginning of the Victorian era.

But, instead, the Salic law made necessary the separation of the crown of Hanover from that of England, and it passed in 1837, not to Victoria, but to the Duke of Cumberland. His very first act on succeeding to the throne was to repeal the grant of all the popular liberties conceded by his younger brother, the Duke of Cambridge, who had been acting as viceroy, and until 1836, Hanover, although free from the obligation of compulsory military service and unhampered by any Prussian restrictions upon trade, remained a hot-bed of feudalism and one of the most retrograde States in Europe.

The Word "Gentleman."

(The Earl of Meath in the Nineteenth Century.)

The word "gentleman" represents a British ideal, and is untranslatable in foreign languages; but, alas! the fine clay of which he is made is daily becoming so impregnated with coarse admixtures that there is danger lest, by the gradual deterioration of the quality of the clay, society should mistake pottery for porcelain, and should be content to accept the coarser for the finer article. It would be well for British men and women to consider whether politeness is or is not worth preserving. They should make up their minds on this point, and act accordingly. If they should decide that the cultivation of manners is incompatible with nineteenth century ideas, and should be allowed to die out with other Old World notions, then, though some of us may regret the decision, we must only bow to the will of the majority; but if, on the other hand, thoughtful people perceive that much is lost to mankind, collectively and individually, by neglecting to study and to practice the little courtesies of life, then let them not by negligence, and, as it were, unbeknown to themselves, permit these habits to pass away without a struggle to maintain them.

There are still in our midst many men and women whose thoughtful courtesy and kindly bearing are in marked contrast with the ill-bred manners of the day. Let these bring their influence to bear on society at large, and by example and precept do their utmost to cause the advent of the time when the British nation, both at home and abroad, shall be distinguished for the politeness of its demeanor.

A true gentleman is naturally courteous—he could hardly be the reverse if he tried; but in these days, when so many lay claim to the title who possess few of the qualifications of gentility, it may be well to joint out that a courteous manner is a quality which, especially in the present days of rudeness, possesses a distinctly commercial value. However boorish we may be ourselves, we all appreciate civility and courtesy in others. We would rather have dealings with a man who treats us with civility, not to say with deference, than with one who treads on our corns and generally irritates us.

The Foot-Ball Player.

(Hartford Courant.)

He is brave beyond a doubt,
Tho' he never boasts about
Valiant deeds.
And the lusty college yell
In the quaint admiring knell
Of his needs.

From his shoulders, broad and square
To his merry flaunting hair
He's a man.
And he takes a "humming" knock
Like a stalwart wooden block
In the van.

He "tackles" and he falls,
As he guards the precious balls
For his life.
And his courage brightly glows
When he meets his sturdy foes
In the strife.

Then honor to the lad
In dingy padding clad
As he plays.
May he win a victor's place
From the heated, jostling race
Of these days.

ELIZABETH ALDEN CURTIS.

CONTAGIOUS BLOOD POISON

In all its stages completely eradicated by S.S.S. Obstinate sores and ulcers yield to its healing powers. It removes the poison and builds up the system.

Valuable treatise on the disease and its treatment mailed free. SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., Atlanta, Ga.

SSS

DEATHS.

BOWIE.—Entered into rest, Tuesday night, Mrs. JOSEPHINE MURRAY BOWIE, wife of A. Bowie, Jr.

Funeral from her late residence, 401 east Main street, THIS AFTERNOON at 3:30 o'clock.

Fredericksburg papers please copy.

POATES.—Died, on Wednesday, November 4, 1896, at 7:30 A. M., WILLIE H. POATES, beloved husband of Mollie S. Poates, in his 31st year.

Funeral from his brother's, at Milford Station, Caroline county, Va., TO-DAY at 10:30 o'clock. Interment at Oakwood Cemetery, Richmond, Va.

Washington papers please copy.

A Record-Breaking Skirt Sale.

Yesterday's selling of Ready-Made Dress Skirts from the bankrupt stock of L. Nacht, manufacturing tailor, Thatford avenue, Brooklyn, reached upwards of 300 skirts, yet this in no instance