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COMET'S TAIL WILL HIT US IN THE NIGHT

Sleep Sound and You Will Probably Not Know it Until the Danger is Over.

Halley's comet is bounding through space, directly towards the earth at the rate of 26 miles a second, 96,000 miles an hour. It is due to pass the earth tomorrow, so close that its tail, which stretches across one-fourth of the heavens, will envelope the earth for 3 1/2 hours.

Many people arose at 2:30 Sunday morning to see the comet rise, and they were richly rewarded. First the mighty tail arose above the eastern horizon and expanded to the southeast, until it stretched like the milky way across the sky. Then the comet itself appeared, a brilliant star with a halo about it.

Observation parties viewed it from the roof of Bethel College, from the High School building and from many points of vantage about the city. The night was wonderfully clear, with every star shining. The moon had set and everything was favorable to view the wanderer in the sky.

On the same night Mayor Howse, of Nashville, ordered the electric lights turned off to let the Nashville people see the sight. The same thing was done at Columbia, Tenn.

Rev. Geo. H. Means, of the Methodist church, preached on the comet Sunday night to a large crowd of interested hearers. His morning sermon was also on the kindred topic of "Superstitions and Delusions."

WILL NOT COLLIDE WITH EARTH.

On the 19th of April the comet passed "perihelion," nearest the sun, was going its swiftest, 1,878 miles a minute, and determinedly rounding the curve to push on toward the earth, as if to drive straight into our orb and end all things for both bodies. At the same time the earth was coming around its curve in the opposite direction and almost as eagerly rushing toward the comet, its speed being about 1,150 miles a minute. And though the two, on the 19th of April, were still 95,000,000 miles apart, the combined movement of earth and comet has been steadily filling up the great gap at the rate of forty-three miles per second, and the great events that are to follow the middle of May are consequently at hand.

That there will be no collision is as evident as that an elevated train may safely cross a surface road above or a subway beneath. When the comet crossed the earth's path early in March—for it is even now within our orbit—it was 15,000,000 miles above us, and when it will pass out beyond the same, May 26, it will be 6,000,000 miles below us. Prof. W. H. Pickering estimates that on the 18th of May we shall be 14,300,000 miles distant from the comet. From these figures a million or two may be clipped in the day or two following. The brilliancy, too, of the comet will be greatest on the 19th, no less than 6,966 times what it was when discovered by Professor Wolf.

But the 18th of May is the great day—the day of the transit and the day of the earth's plunge through the comet's tail.

THE QUESTION OF DANGER.

The first question is, of course, that of danger. Will the earth, and all things therein be destroyed, as the 30,000 inhabitants of St. Pierre were laid low in three minutes by the poisonous fumes of Mount Pelee? Our answer is that if the earth should graze the comet's head possibly its vapors would so fill our atmosphere that nothing thereafter could live. But at a point in the tail 14,000,000 miles from that head we are perfectly safe, as we should be indeed at one-half or one-fourth that distance. The comet's tail is literally next to nothing. The little that it is will not affect our atmosphere in any unpleasant or harmful way. There is as much danger in the rays of a searchlight or rainbow and infinitely more in the fumes of the chimneys and automobiles of a city. It is true that it is of a gaseous na-

ture, but so extremely thin that the faintest stars can be seen through a million miles of its volume.

The next question pertains to the spectacle. If the transit may prove invisible, will the plunge through the tail prove equally so? It may, for in 1819 the earth went through a comet's tail without any one knowing it, and in 1861 it did the same, though it was remembered afterward that a strange aurora-like appearance had been observed at the time, a certain yellowness of sky, which was even thought worthy of record, though its connection with the comet had not been suspected. It is not unlikely that we shall have an experience somewhat like that. In the morning of May 18, before sunrise, the tail is likely to be seen extending from the eastern toward the western horizon. In the evening of the 19th, after sunset, the tail is likely to be seen extending from the western toward the eastern horizon, but later during the night of the 18th the entire heavens are likely to be seen carrying a faint and peculiar radiance, due to the fact that we are immersed hundreds of thousands of miles in the comet's tail. The chief thing to militate against the spectacle will be the moon, which that night is ten days old and will not set till 2:45 in the morning. But inasmuch as the peculiar sky radiance in 1861 was seen even in the daytime we may hope that fair Luna will be good enough, since she is generously granted half the nights of each month, not to spoil the marvels of so extraordinary an occasion as this.

When this great day of the comet has passed it will be seen for some time, night after night, in the western sky after sunset—first at about its largest, then rapidly growing smaller as it retreats into the depths of space and becomes once more invisible, not again to charm the eye, awaken the wonder and stir the awe of mankind until most of us have been long forgotten in our humble graves.

WHERE THE TRANSIT MAY BE SEEN. This is made possible by a remarkable combination of circumstances. For four months the comet has been north of the sun. On the very day that it passes it in going back from the morning to the evening sky it also passes south of the sun. This brings it directly across the sun's face. Prof. See says that this will take place between 7 p. m. and 1 a. m., eastern time. Prof. Pickering names 9 p. m., eastern time, as the hour. "Popular Astronomy" says that 11:19 p. m., eastern time, is the exact middle of the transit, but that it lasts in its entirety from 10:50 p. m. to 11:48 p. m. The center of the comet's head will pass about four or five minutes of arc above the center of the sun's disk, the diameter of the disk being thirty minutes.

Now it is manifest that, vastly important as this event is, it will be entirely invisible to a large part of humanity by reason of the sun's being below the horizon at the hour named. France, England, Germany, Spain and all the eastern part of the United States will then be in the shadow of night. Only on our western borders is there hope that the transit may be witnessed, and in the Hawaiian Islands there is a much closer approach to certainty. Prof. Barnard has estimated that the size of the comet's head as seen from the earth will be more than sufficient to cover the sun's entire face. It would therefore seem that a remarkable phenomenon is at hand, very closely approaching an eclipse in character.

MASS OF METEORITES IN ITS HEAD.

So it would be if the comet's head were solid, like the moon; but though we are convinced that there is solid matter in it, being probably made up of a mass of meteorites held together by their mutual attraction,

still we know it to be much more largely gaseous in its nature and shall have to wait and see whether it be sufficiently opaque to darken the sun or whether it is so transparent that the sun can shine right through it as though a thin cloud.

TWO HOUSE PARTIES

Enliven Society in Church Hill and Newstead Circles.

Frank Boyd was the host of a week end party, given at his home Saturday and Sunday. He was assisted in entertaining by Misses Laura Walker and Annie Clardy and as a result things were lively at all times, and every minute was enjoyed to its fullest extent by all.

The party was made up as follows: Miss Hugh Miller and Frank Gary; Miss Elizabeth Bacon and Robert Stowe Jr.; Miss Annie Hamner and Chas. Meacham, Jr.; Miss Gertrude Gary and Alfred Wallace; Miss Annie Clardy and Emmett Jones; Miss Laura Walker and Harry Boyd; and Sunday they were joined by Waller Pendleton.

Saturday afternoon the party drove over to Mr. Arthur Henry's home, where his daughter, Miss Julia Henry, was entertaining a similar party, consisting of Miss Martha Radford and John Van Cleve; Miss Posey Cullen and Robt. Henry; Miss Mary Lee Moss and Henry Stowe, Miss Ruth McKnight and Arthur Lander; Miss Allie Coleman and Lucian Jones; Miss Julia Henry.

The two parties were made into one by Mrs. Henry, who served very delightful refreshments and turned the house over to them, allowing them to enjoy the privilege of feeling at home.

Saturday night Mr. and Mrs. Henry brought their party over to Mr. Boyd's and the two were once more made one, and enjoyed many different features of entertainment during the evening, and it was Sunday morning before they broke up.

Sunday morning found them all ready for another day and after going to church they returned to enjoy the last few hours before they were to say goodbye. They declared a more pleasant visit had never been enjoyed by any one.

Swallows Dollar.

Lexington, Ky., May 12.—Frank Browning, col., a prisoner in the city jail, swallowed a silver dollar accidentally and a physician was summoned to save his life and succeeded in recovering the lost coin. The coin passed through the stomach and intestines and was recovered in the lower bowels. The negro is very ill as a result of trying to "eat money," but will recover.

Spring Cleaning

See Our Show Window for Suggestions.

Mops, Dusters, Brooms, Soaps, Lyes, Pearline, Sapolio, Scrub-brushes, Mop-wringers, Washing Powder, and various other things that are specially adapted to the occasion.

W.T. Cooper & Co.

IN-MEMORY OF HEROES

Daughters of American Revolution Purpose to Erect a Tablet.

39 NAMES ARE KNOWN.

And There are Perhaps Many Others Who were Buried in Christian County.

The Col. John Green Chapter D. A. R. has inaugurated a movement to commemorate the names of soldiers of the Revolution who are buried in Christian county, by erecting a bronze tablet, at the entrance of the Riverside cemetery, where some of the heroes are buried. The Daughters have been compiling the list for some time, which is here given, so far as known:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| John Anderson | George Barnes |
| Henry Brewer | Jerry Brewer |
| John Carter | John Cain |
| Joseph Casky | Joseph Cavender |
| Jonathon Clark | John Conner |
| Thos. Dickinson | Henry Davis |
| Wm. Dupuy | Absalom Franklin |
| James Gilmore | Wm. Gray |
| John Harlow | Wm. Henry |
| Samuel Johnson | Dalmath Johnson |
| Samuel Jones | John Knight |
| Night Knight | Joseph Meacham |
| Absalom Nixon | Mathew Patton |
| John Philips | Isaac Palmer |
| James Robinson | James Stewart |
| James Sullenger | Isaac Stroud |
| Charles Thomas | Thos. Waggoner |
| Wm. Warren | Robt. Warner |
| Robt. Watener | Thos. Woosley |
| | Samuel Younglove. |

In addition to these, it is believed that Francis M. Dallam and Ephraim Cook, whose graves are in the old Pioneer Graveyard, were Revolutionary soldiers. Many other names are doubtless entitled to be added to the list.

AGED CITIZEN

Of North Christian Passes Away.

R. B. Poindexter, an aged citizen of North Christian, died Sunday night at his home four miles from the city. Mr. Poindexter was 85 years old and death was due to senility. He is survived by his wife and six children, three sons and three daughters. The interment took place in Riverside Cemetery yesterday afternoon.

MAY EXAMINATION

Of White Applicants for Certificates to Teach.

The May examination of white applicants for certificates to teach in the County schools will be held at the West Side school building next Friday and Saturday. The first examination of colored applicants will be held Friday and Saturday, May 27 and 28, at the colored school building.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

U. D. C.

The annual decoration of Confederate graves at Riverside cemetery will take place Thursday afternoon at one o'clock, May 19th. The Daughters are expected, as is the custom, to bring generous baskets of good things to eat and serve dinner to the Veterans at Odd Fellows Hall from 11:30 to 12 o'clock Thursday.

Hot coffee will be prepared for all present by a committee of ladies and it is earnestly desired that every member of the Christian Co. Chapter will bring a nice picnic lunch and as many flowers for the decoration as possible.

CUT PRICE SALE

LADIES WOOLEN SUITS

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Ladies' Coat Suits, Worth \$25.00, sale price \$16.00	Ladies' Coat Suits, Worth \$27.50, sale price \$19.00
Ladies' Coat Suits, Worth \$27.50, sale price \$18.00	Ladies' Coat Suits, Worth \$25.00, sale price \$17.00
Ladies' Coat Suits, Worth \$30.00, sale price \$20.00	Ladies' Coat Suits, White Serge, cost \$25.00, sale price \$19.00
Ladies' Coat Suits, Worth \$35.00, sale price \$25.00	Ladies' Coat Suits, White Serge, cost \$22.50, sale price \$18.00

The above prices are so low that purchasers will have to pay expense of alterations, if any are necessary. This is a rare opportunity for careful buyers, so come early and get your choice.

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