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Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

can steamboats sweep the world. 71
California vineyards 70
Carrier for coal, hay, etc.* 70
Clothes pins with the 66
Cog link for chains. 46
Cog link for chains. 46
Cog link for chains. 46
Con for seasickness at last. 64
Double-acting door spring* 73
Duttes of railway corporations. 83
Earthquakes and pagodas. 83
Englinearing in versus 14
Eige ish ocomotives. 72
Enormous tumor, ap 66
Expiration of alizarine patents. 73
Famous yach builder, a 63
George M, Beard 65
Ghass-cutting frame* 72 Famous yacht builder, a George M. Beard Class-cutting frame* Harding process of embossing* Harding process of embossing* Hibernation of cotton worm How to dry plants Important telephone decision. Importation of adulterated tea. Improved fire hose nowle*.

Adirondack wilderness... 64 Improved cotton planter*...
Adulteration of aniline colors... 65 Improvement submarine mining,
Alum water a fire extinguisher... 68 Interesting elec. mach., new*...
Am. steamboats sweep the world, 71 Large pearls...
California villeyards... 70 Manhole packing... Iron snatter, marking the large pearls.
Manhole packing.
MacAdam roads.
Mechanical inventions.
Microscope for testing timber.
Newbooks and publications. Microscope for testing timber
Newbooks and publications.
New lecture experiments.
New York Acad. of Sciences.
Novel swing?
Opossum hunting in Australia.
Patent saw mill. Taylor's*
Paterson's cotton planter.
Postal col scale, new*
Preparation of spongy tin
Receiving telephone*.
Saw mill with top saw*.
Societies for promotion of thrift.
Spring toothed sulky barrow*
Starlit sky in February
The first comet of 18%
Train in a sandstorm.
Treatment of heart disease.
Yentilation of churches.
We weak electric currents
We meaking the sectrical machine.

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF

THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT

No. 370,

For the Week ending February 3, 1883.

Price 10 cents For sale by all newsdealers

I. ENGINEERING AND MECHANICS.—Launch of a Channel Steamer. II. TECHNOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY.—The Utilization of Waste.—
By P. L. SIMMONDS.—Am exceedingly comprehensive and valuable review of the animal, vegetable, and mineral waste utilized and remaining to be utilized as feed stuffs and in the arts.

The Commercial Museum of Brussels.—Patent Concentrated Essential Oils.— GEOGRAPHY, MINERALOGY, ETC.—Savorgnan De Brazza.— Full length portrait in explorer's costume. M. De Brazza's Explorations in Equaterial Africa.—1 figure.—De Brazza's passing a rapid on the Ogowe River New Mineral Localities. By R. T. CROSS.—Topaz.—Phenacite.— 5895 . 5895 New Mineral Localities. By R. T. CROSS.—Topaz.—Phenacite.—5910

IV. ELECTRICITY. LIGHT, HEAT, ETC.—" Das Telephon."—
Rejs' original invention and its relation to subsequent telephones, 5905
Messes. D'Arsonval and Bert's Microtelephone Apparatus.—3
figures.—Receiver.—Transmitter. Combined system 5906
Secondary Battery. 5907
Surfaco Temperatures in Paris.—M. M. Hecquerel's measurements. -Phenacite. Surface Temperatures in Paris, -31, M. Decquerers means.

Apparent Radiation of Cold
Production of Low Temperatures
Electromotive Force
Small freandescent Lamps.—2 figures.—Trouve's lamps.
The Electric Arc in Vapor of Sulphuret of Carbon
Photometric Measurements. By Sir William Thomson.—Approximative photometric measurements of sun moon, cloudy sky, and electric and other artificial lights. V. HYGIENE AND MEDICINE.—Plagues and Pestilences.—(bronology of great plagues and pestilences.—Possible relations of cosmic, meteoric, or telluric conditions upon the outbreak of plagues...
Coating Pills with Gelatine...
Reactions of Bile Pigments.

VI. ART. ARCHITE TURE, ETC.—Chemigraphic Engraving
Pictures in Glass.—Suggestions in decorative art.—6 figures.—
Cartoons in glass.—Carpentry.—Woodman.—Joinery.—Carving.—
Parquet flooring.—Decoration.
English Ideas of American Architecture.

VII. ACRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, ETC.—Broad Beans.—1 figure. Improved Windsor beans.

Appropria on the French System.—1 figure.—Well developed stool of asparagus having ample space.

Notes on Asparagus

Notes on Asparagus Orange Tree Scale. - Remedy for scale on fruit trees .

AN AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

For many years the science of astronomy has been cultivated in this country with no small measure of energy and success. ens at nine o'clock on the 11th of February, we cannot fail American astronomers, professional and amateur, have won to see on the meridian a very brilliant star, intensely white, by their intelligent labors and hrilliant discoveries an honor- with a sapphire tinge. It is Sirius, the leader of the host of able rank in the scientific world. We have some of the most heaven, a glorious object, far exceeding our sun in size and favorably situated and powerfully equipped observatories in splendor. It is the leading brilliant in Canis Major, and, the world, and are building bigger ones. And yet, until though classed as a star of the first magnitude, gives four lately, there has been in this country no specific organization times as much light as any other star visible in our latitude. devoted to astronomy, such as abound in Europe, particu- It would be natural to infer that this star is nearer to us than larly in Great Britain.

are here and in this vicinity several private observatories bet- the heavens at a distance of at least a million times our dister known, perhaps, abroad than at home. There are many tance from the sun. isolated observers, some of world-wide reputation; and the It is so far away that light is twelve years in spanning the popular interest taken in courses of astronomical lectures— distance. The flashing light that now comes from the star is like the admirable series now being given by Professor twelve years old, and if it were this night blotted from the Young-shows that there is no lack of material here for the sky, it would continue to shine there for twelve years to nucleus of an American Astronomical Society which shall be come. Its dimensions have been approximately measured. worthy of the name. It is gratifying to record a promising and it is found to be a magnificent sun, at least two hunbeginning in this direction. On Monday evening, Jan. 22. dred times as large as our sun. Inequalities in its motion a number of gentlemen interested in the study of astronomy were long observed, and were attributed to the attraction of met at the residence of Mr. S. V. White in Brooklyn for the a companion. But no one succeeded in detecting the dispurpose of organizing an astronomical society, to consist of turbing element until 1862, when the son of Mr. Alvar professional and amateur astronomers, teachers, and others Clark, the famous telescope maker, in testing a powerful interested in the study. Mr. White, who owns the largest new instrument, turned it upon Sirius, and beheld a tiny and finest refracting telescope of any private observer in point near the star that proved to be the long looked for America, was elected President of the society; Mr. William companion. Sirius belongs to the highest order of stats, T. Gregg, Vice-President; and Mr. G. P. Serviss, Secretary. known as white stars. Its color has changed, for Seneca de-The intention is to make the society broadly American in scribes it as ruddier than Mars, and Ptolemy classes it with scope and membership. There is a good field for it, and Antares. It has been seen with the naked eye in broad sunproperly conducted it cannot fail to become one of our most shine, and it is brilliant enough to cast a shadow. honorable and useful institutions.

A CURE FOR SEASICKNESS AT LAST.

Rev. Mr. Thwing describing a new and peculiar method of four bright stars, a row of three stars in the center, and an in several instances.

paper was listened to with profound interest by the members form his belt, and the oblique stars mark his glittering sword. printed proceedings of the Academy. If we were owners it has once been traced, it can never be forgotten. Not negotiate with the author to take the chaplaincy of our best equally noteworthy for the telescopic interest attached to one thousand dollars a trip would be nothing for the lit and for the number and richness of its astronomical curiservices of such a man.

We have heretofore heard of advantages claimed to arise from preaching and the laying on of hands; but this, we is midway between the poles of the heavens and directly believe, is the first example of the practical application of the over the equator. The three stars in the belt measure three system to seasick passengers on board of Atlantic steamers. degrees in width, and may thus serve as a measuring rod for

THE ADIRONDACK WILDERNESS.

derness, out of which flow the Hudson River and other clusters a hazy cloud-speck. When a powerful telescope is streams of great commercial, manufacturing and sanitary turned upon it, a wondrous transformation takes place—the value to the State, has long been recognized by observing Great Nebula of Orion springs into existence. The cloudy and thoughtful citizens. The outer and more accessible patch becomes a huge monster, with open mouth and branchportions of the original forest region have long been stripped ing horns. Within the open mouth a trapezium of stars is of their timber, and vast areas of little use for agriculture revealed, while spiral forms of ghost-like indistinctness fill have thus been made treeless and barren. So long as the in the field of vision. Telescope and spectroscope have ex-PAGE! forests of Maine and Michigan and other wooded regions in hausted their powers in seeking to solve the mysterious forthe North and West were able to supply timber at a less cost, mation of this wonder of the skies. for transportation to market, the remaining Adirondack forests were practically protected from the inroads of lumber men. That protection they are rapidly losing: and quite Many of them are double, triple, and multiple stars, the recently vast tracts of heavily wooded lands in that region components developing every contrasted color of the rainhave passed into the hands of timber cutters

the past few months, have brought death and desolation to plete. so many European river valleys. The rainfall of the Adiron. If now we turn our eyes to a point in the sky 26 degrees ously obstructed by the detritus washed in from unprotected large equilateral triangle. hill slopes and other spaces stripped of their original forests.

the Senate, has taken ground against the further invasion of twin stars in the constellation Gemini. The upper and the Adirondack forests, at least for that part of the region brighter of the two is Castor, of the first magnitude. It is under State control; and it is much to be hoped that the As- the most beautiful double star in the northern heavens. A sembly will do as well. Senator Frederick Lansing's bill. telescope of moderate power will separate it into two stars forbidding the sale of 660,000 acres owned by the State in of nearly equal magnitude—one a brilliant white, the other the Adirondack region, was passed by a vote of 24 to 5, white tinged with green. Castor and Pollux, as well January 23. It is a good indication of increasing public ap- as Procyon, are on the meridian about an hour after Sirius, preciation of the need of preserving the wooded character of while Orion has passed the meridian an hour earlier, and is 5909 that part of the State. The timber there, if cut at all, should descending on the westward track. be cut only under rigid control, and with the most careful

THE STARLIT SKY IN FEBRUARY.

If, facing the south, we raise our eyes to the starry heavits companions. Such is not the case. Several smaller stars While we have no great observatory in New York, there are nearer to us than the brilliant orb that holds a place in

Taking Sirius for a starting point, we will explore some of the leading stars and constellations in the vicinity. Northwest of Sirius, and an hour past the meridian, is the In our report of the proceedings of the New York Acad. finest constellation in the heavens, the superb Orion. Its ony of Sciences mention is made of a paper read by the outlines are easily traced: an elongated parallelogram of curing seasickness, which the author has tried with success oblique row running from the central band form the framework. The poetic imagination of the Greeks surrounded He approaches the sufferer unawares from behind, places, and interwove with this starry framework the giant stature his hand upon the patient's head, and speaks in an assuring and majestic proportions of Orion, the mighty hunter, tone of voice. This, puts the passenger into a trance, his brandishing a club in his right hand, and holding in his sickness is ended, he is supremely happy. The doctor then left a lion's skin for a shield. Betelguese and Bellatrix, the pronounces the words "all right," which instantly restores two upper stars of the parallelogram, shine brightly on his the sick man to sense and health, enabling him thereafter to shoulders; Rigel and Saiph, the two lower ones, sparkle on enjoy full meals of victuals without let or hinderance. The his left foot and right knee. The three stars in the center present, was discussed, and will be duly published in the So striking are the outlines of this constellation, that when of a popular steamship line, our first business would be to only does it take the lead for its exceeding beauty, but it is osities.

Orion is visible all over the habitable world, for the center computing the distance of the stars. This constellation contains the most famous nebula in the heavens, and it is visible The need of saving the woodlands of the Adirondack wil- to the naked eye. Around the central star in the Sword

Eighty stars may be counted in Orion visible to the naked eye, while nearly two thousand are revealed in the telescone. bow, and bearing witness to the inconceivable richness and There is no question that the general clearing of the Adi_ profusion of creative Power that not only produces systems rondack region of its protecting forests would produce ruled by a single sun, but mingles with them other systems, effects of the most disastrous character to the valleys of the where two, three, four, and even more suns revolve about streams flowing therefrom; effects like those which, during each other in circuits that take thousands of years to com-

dack region is great; the drainage slopes steep; and without the northeast of Sirius, and about the same distance east of controlling and restraining influence of the existing swamps. Betelguese, a bright red star will appear. It is Procyon, the and forests about their sources, the rivers which drain this leading brilliant in Canis Minor. It shows to skillful obnorthern wilderness would show only great and sudden alservers similar evidence of disturbance to that of Sirius. It ternations of flooded and empty channels, destructive at once is hoped that some of the great telescopes now being conto the agriculture of their valleys, to the manufacturing instructed will reveal in like manner the companion of Procyon. terests which cluster along their banks, and to the commerce It will help to impress the relative position of Sirius, Betelof the Hudson, the channel of which has already been seri- guese, and Procyon on the memory to note that they form a

Looking 23 degrees, north of Procyon, two bright stars, It is gratifying to note that the State Legislature, or rather 4° 30' apart, may be seen. They are Castor and Pollux,

Turning our eyes northwest of Orion, we behold two clus-5800 provisions for immediate rewooding of the cleared ground. Iters in Taurus. One of them is the Pleiades, with six stars