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Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

Table listing various articles such as 'Adhesion of locomotive wheels', 'How to get rich', 'Inventions, agricultural', etc., with corresponding page numbers.

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For the Week Ending October 1, 1887.

Price 10 cents. For sale by all newsdealers.

Detailed table of contents for the supplement, including sections like 'I. BIOGRAPHY', 'II. BOTANY', 'III. CHEMISTRY', etc., with page numbers.

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. William E. Gladstone has given it as his opinion that the Constitution of the United States is the most remarkable work produced by the human intellect in modern times. The centennial of the signing of this instrument was celebrated with great pomp in Philadelphia on September 15, 16, and 17, 1887.

The different trades of the city made a fine display in a parade upon the first day; workmen executing the operations of their trade, both in the old and in the modern ways, were carried on floats or great trucks through the streets. The Carpenters' Club bore a banner which ninety-nine years ago had been carried in the first anniversary of the framing of the Constitution.

The chairman of the Centennial Commission, Mr. John A. Kasson, after calling for silence, during which Bishop Potter pronounced an invocation for the nation, addressed the assemblage. He was followed by the President and Justice Miller. The latter delivered a long and carefully prepared address upon the Constitution.

The number of people who participated in the different parts of the display cannot be estimated. It is doubtful if so extensive a celebration of this nature has been seen in this country.

Our readers should not forget that in this celebration was included the anniversary of the foundation of our patent system. In the Constitution are those famous articles on which the patent statutes were based, and on which their weight reposes.

POSITIONS OF THE PLANETS IN OCTOBER.

VENUS

is morning star, and is a superb object in the morning sky, rising on the first of the month about an hour and a quarter before the sun, and at its close nearly two hours and a half before him.

SATURN

is morning star, and is easily found making his way among the small stars of Cancer, and forming a triangle with Pollux and Procyon. He is in quadrature on the 29th, being at that time 90° west of the sun.

on the 1st at 12 h. 21 m. A. M.; on the 31st, he rises at 10 h. 31 m. P. M. His diameter on the 1st is 16'6", and he is in the constellation Cancer.

MARS

is morning star. He is near the bright star Regulus on the 10th, and may be readily seen in the small hours of the morning of that day as a small, ruddy star north of his brighter companion.

NEPTUNE

is morning star. He is near opposition, near his least distance from the earth, and in excellent position for telescopic observation. He may be found about 5° south of the Pleiades.

URANUS

is evening star until the 6th, and then morning star. He is in conjunction with the sun on the 6th, rising and setting with the sun at that time, and being at his greatest distance from the earth.

JUPITER

is evening star, and sets so soon after the sun that he will soon become invisible. He makes a close conjunction with Alpha Librae on the 26th, at 1 h. A. M., being 34' north of the star.

MERCURY

is evening star. He reaches his greatest eastern elongation on the 27th at 3 h. A. M., and is 23° 58' east of the sun. He is far enough from the sun at that time to be visible to the naked eye, but his southern declination will make him a difficult object to find.

An Arrival of Cholera at New York.

On Sept. 23 the steamship Alesia arrived at New York from the Mediterranean with four passengers sick with Asiatic cholera, there having been eight deaths on board from the disease during the voyage.

The ship has been thoroughly washed and fumigated, and the cargo and baggage put through a special process of cleaning by sulphurous acid gas, in much the same way as rags are disinfected. The cholera has prevailed for many weeks past at Genoa, Naples, and Palermo, there being many new cases daily at Naples, of which 70 per cent were proving fatal.

An Electric Whistle.

M. Zigang has devised a trumpet worked by electricity and designed to warn or signal vessels, trains, or tram cars. It consists of a trumpet tube and a sounding plate which is vibrated by the electric current passing through an electro-magnet having its poles close to a soft iron armature carried by the plate.