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## No. 613

## the Week Ending Detober 1, 1887.

 Price 10 cents. For eale by all newdere
entennial of the signing of the constitution of the dilted 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 President of the United States and his wife, members of the judiciary, State governors, members of the cabinet and of the houses of Congress, army officens, many church dignitaries, and other notabilities were present. The vessels of the North Atlantic squadron of the U.S. navy, five in number, sailed up the Delaware and anchored off Fairmount Avenue. The city was decorated with bunting, and every available spot was utilized by sightseers. All around the public buildings several ranges of staging were carried, which were filled with chairs, providing alone for the accommodation of many thou sands. Arrangements had been made to provide for accidents. The fire department was kept ready for instant response to alarms. The ambulances were in readiness to answer any calls. The hospitals made special preparations, and quantities of bandages and similar supplies were sent to them by some of the large business houses. Fortunately these preparations were not needed, as owing to good organization the great display passed off with very few accidents. It included processions, receptions, speeches by the President, by Justice Miller of the Supreme Court, and others.
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 portion of the parade occupied by this display of the industries of the country was very long, and took over an hour to pass a given point. The military parade took place upon Friday, and General Sheridan led the march, the famous Marine Band of Washington preceding it, and the different State governors appeared as participants. Finally, upon Saturday, the anniversary day of the signing, the closing exercises took place in Independence Square. An immense stage erected there was filled with 15,000 people, while on the street an audience of 30,000 patiently stood during the addresses, which but few could hear.
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. After some further addresses and singing of "Hail Columbia," with additional stanzas by Oliver Wendell Holmes, \&new national hymn, by J. Marion Crawford, was recited by Professor Murdock, the elocutionist. Then Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, in full canonicals, recited a prayer, terminating the pro-
ceedings by his benediction. ceedings by his benediction.
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. As a lesson in the organization of such proceedings, the successful carrying out of the three days' programme, with the liberal provision for spectators, is not without value.
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. Three hundred thousand defined inventions, with all the incidental unpatented inventions which they have led to, and with the unprecedented development of American industries, fostered and brought on by them, all repose upon these few sentences of the Constitution. Little allusion to this can be found in the proceedings, but the great labor parade, with its contrast of the old and new
methods, was the noblest tribute, if an indirect one, that could have been rendered. When the time for the centennial of our patent system shall come, the country will be presented a display in its essentials the most impressive ever yet witnessed.

## 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. She reaches her period of greatest brilliancy as morning star on the 28th, when she may be seen in full daylight. Venus rises on the 1 st at $4 \mathrm{~h} .48 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{A} . \mathrm{M} . ;$ on the 31 st , sherises at 3 h . 2 m. A. M. Her diameter is $57.9^{\circ}$, and she is in the constellation Virgo.

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
on the 1st at $12 \mathrm{~h} .21 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{A} . \mathrm{M}$. ; on the 31st, he rises at 10 h .31 m. P. M. His diameter on the 1 st is $16 \cdot 6^{\prime \prime}$, 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. Mars rises on the 1st at 1 h . 50 m. A. M.; on the 31st, he rises at 1 h .24 m. A. M His diameter on the 1 st is $4 \cdot 8^{\prime \prime}$, and he is in the constel lation Leo.

## 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 $5^{\circ}$ south of the Pleiades. Neptune rises on the 1st at h. 51 m. P. M.; on the 31st, he rises at $5 \mathrm{~h} .49 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{P} . \mathrm{M}$. His diameter on the 1st is $2 \cdot 6^{\prime \prime}$, and $h *$ is in the constel lation Taurus.

URANUS
s 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. Uranus sets on the st at $5 \mathrm{~h} .41 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{P}$. M.; on the 31st, he rises at 4 h .20 m. A. M. His diameter on the 1 st is $3 \cdot 4^{\prime \prime}$, and he is in the constellation Virgo

JUPITER
is evening star, and sets so soon after the sun that he will soon become invisible. He makes a close conjunction with Alpha Libræ on the 26th, at 1 h . A. M., being $34^{\prime}$ north of the star. Jupiter sets on the 1st at 6 h .44 $\mathrm{m} . \mathrm{P}$. M.; on the 31st, he sets at 5 h .3 m . $\dot{\mathrm{P}}$. M. His diameter on the 1 st is $30^{\prime \prime}$, and he is in the constellation Libra.

## MERCURY

evening star. He reaches his greatest eastern eionga ion on the 27 th at 3 h . A. M., and is $23^{\circ} 58^{\prime}$ east of the un. 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. Mercury sets on the 1 stat $6 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{P} . \mathrm{M}$.; on the 31 st , he sets at 5 h .34 m . P. M. The diameter of Mercury on the 1 st is $5^{\prime \prime}$, and he is in the constellation Virgo.

## 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 sailed from Marseilles Aug. 29, and stopped at Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, and Palermo, taking on 561 Italian emigrants, and having aboard in all 609 persons After the vessel had arrived at the regular quarantine station, which is some six miles below the lower end of New. York City, no time was lost in turning her back to the Lower Bay, and putting the passengers and crew under the strictest rules to cut off all possibility of the epidemic being communicated from the ship. The sick were landed on one of the small quarantine islands there, and put in a hospital for contagious and infec tious diseases, and the others were placed in an obser vation hospital, to be detained from ten to twenty days, or until all danger is supposed to be over.
'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 pre vailed 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, but the New York health authorities have no apprehension that the disease will ohtain a foothold here, so prompt and thor ough has been the action of the department, while President Baylies, of the Health Department, is of the opinion that cholera in New York City is not as bad as diphtheria. There were cholera epidemics in New York city in $1832,1834,1849,1854$, and 1866. Deaths fron the disease in those years are as follows: 1832, 3,513 1834,$971 ; 1849,5,071 ; 1854,2,509 ; 1866,1,137$. Most of the deaths werein tenement houses, and the disease obtained its strongesthold in the vicinity of bone-boiling and fat-rendering places. In other parts of the city it yielded readily enough to sanitary measures.

## An Electric Whistle.

M. Zigang has devised a trumpet worked by elecricity 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. A regulating screw contact, with a platinum point, rests against the iron armature and serves to interrupt the current of two Leclanche elements as the plate vibrates, thus keeping up the sound as long as desired. The apparatus is simple in construction and can be used also as a Morse sounder in receiving telegraphic messages, the current being sent through.the electro-magnet.

