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STAR LORE

AND

Future Events.

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PUBLISHED BY GLEN & CO., 328, STRAND, LONDON.

No. 2.] FEBRUARY, 1897. [PRICE 3D.

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PHENOMENA—FEBRUARY, 1897.

- FEB. 1ST—SUN 120° MARS 4^h 36^m afternoon.
- „ 7TH.—SATURN enters the sign *Sagittarius*.
- „ 17TH.—SUN 90° URANUS, 7^h 39^m morning.
- „ 18TH.—SUN 90° SATURN, 7^h 39^m afternoon.
- „ 23RD.—SUN *opposition* JUPITER 5^h 16^m afternoon.
- „ 26TH.—Neptune *stationary* in the sign *Gemini* 17° 19' 44".

LUNAR CONJUNCTIONS.

- Feb. 1st, ☽ ☉, 8^h 13^m afternoon.
- „ 5th, ☽ ♀, 7^h 35^m afternoon.
- „ 11th, ☽ ♂, 7^h 21^m afternoon.
- „ 17th, ☽ ♃, 10^h 10^m afternoon.
- „ 23rd, ☽ ♁, 4^h 8^m afternoon.
- „ 23rd, ☽ ♄, 6^h 50^m afternoon.

Rising and Setting of the Principal Planets, February, 1897.

D M	MERCURY.		VENUS.		MARS.		JUPITER.		SATURN.		URANUS.	
	Rises. h. m.	Sets. h. m.	Rises. h. m.	Sets. h. m.	Rises. h. m.	Sets. h. m.	Rises. h. m.	Sets. h. m.	Rises. h. m.	Sets. h. m.	Rises. h. m.	Sets. h. m.
1st	6 32 ^m	3 15 ^a	9 10 ^m	9 8 ^a	11 31 ^m	4 21 ^m	7 0 ^a	8 45 ^m	2 42 ^m	11 28 ^m	2 46 ^m	11 12 ^m
6th	6 20	2 53	8 57	9 21	11 15	4 7	6 38 ^a	8 24	2 23	11 9	2 27	10 53
11th	6 16	2 42	8 42	9 31	11 1	3 53	6 14	8 3	2 5	10 50	2 8	10 34
16th	6 16	2 42	8 28	9 43	10 47	3 41	5 51	7 43	1 46	10 32	1 48	10 14
21st	6 22	2 44	8 14	9 53	10 33	3 29	5 27	7 22	1 28	10 12	1 29	9 55
26th	6: 16	3 4	7 58	10 3	10 21	3 17	5 4	7 1	1 9	9 53	1 9	9 35

GREAT BRITAIN AND U.S., AMERICA.

THE ARBITRATION TREATY between Great Britain and the United States was signed “shortly after noon” of Monday, January 11th, at Washington. The treaty is to be operative for a term of five years from the date of ratification. In future, however, we may conclude that every misunderstanding which may happen between the two great English-speaking nations, except such as may “touch the national honour,” or involve national existence, will be submitted to a permanent tribunal to arbitrate upon. As this momentous event renders the beginning of January, 1897, a new epoch, we present the places of the heavenly bodies at noon, viz. :—

PLANETS' PLACES AT NOON, JANUARY 11TH, 1897, WASHINGTON.

	☉	☽	♃	♀	♁	♃	♄	♁	♃	♃
Long.	21 50	0 35	9 27	5 31	11 42	9 44	21 9	27 55	18 3	
Declin.	21 S 41	16 N 32	17 S 31	10 S 42	25 N 12	9 N 2	17 S 47	19 S 22	29 N 22	

The middle or third decanate of the sign *Taurus* would be rising at the time the treaty was signed—we trust that the exact moment of the signatures of Secretary Olney and Sir

Julius Paunceforte being appended to it will soon be published. The ascending sign being a "fixed" one, this figure of the heavens is very favourable to the permanence of the treaty; especially as the Moon had just risen in *Taurus*, and applied to the sextile aspect with Venus in the 11th house, and the trine with Jupiter in the 5th house.

As Senator John Sherman wrote: "It is probably the most remarkable treaty ever made by the United States. It will bring together one hundred million people who are kindred in stock, in language, and in tradition. It seems to comprehend a peaceful solution of all those questions which usually arise to disturb the relations of two nations. In this respect it is a momentous event."

PLAGUE AND FAMINE IN INDIA.

The extension of bubonic plague and mortality has unhappily taken place at Bombay and its vicinity, as we feared would be the case (vide p. 4). By the 21st January, the plague assumed such terrible proportions that "people were dying hourly in the streets." [Dalziel's Agency]. Remarking on the presence of Saturn and Uranus on the cusp of the eighth house, at the winter solstice, we stated that it "pre-signified some very remarkable sudden deaths in India; mortality among the aged." This forecast was written in July, 1896, and will be found at page 50 of *Zadkiel's Almanac* for 1897.

British sympathy with the suffering natives is being splendidly demonstrated by the subscriptions sent to the Mansion House Fund. It is lamentable to find that the special fund—raised as "assessed taxes" since 1878 in India—has been encroached upon for warlike and other purposes instead of being exclusively set aside as provision for the sufferers in any famine that might afflict India. The *Star*, January 22nd, states that in 1894 the Government of India temporarily suspended the famine insurance grant, and last year it partially restored the grant to the extent of Rs1,000,000. Where has the money gone to? Two years ago part of it plainly went to increase official salaries under the name of exchange compensation allowance. Under Lord Ripon's rule (1881-2 onwards) the Government of India fulfilled its pledges. But from 1887-91 it fell grievously short of them. True, in 1891 the Government made a change for the better. But a reference to the accounts will show that it did not, even so, allocate to insurance against famine the total proceeds of the special taxes at that time.

EARTHQUAKE IN THE EAST.

BOMBAY, Jan. 21st (*Dalziel's Agency*).—"Advices received here to-day state that on the 15th inst. three severe shocks of earthquake were experienced on Kishim, the largest island in the Persian Gulf. Of the 5,000 inhabitants of the island, mostly Arabs, no fewer than 2,500 have been killed."

This terrible catastrophe happened soon after the conjunction of Saturn with Uranus, and at the very time that Mars was stationary and Venus came to opposition with Jupiter.

The 14th was mentioned as one of the probable dates of earthquakes in the East, at page 6 of the January number of "STAR-LORE." Kishim is some 15° farther East than the 41° we named as the probable scene of a destructive earthquake.

The *Star* of December 29th, 1896, printed a letter from our pen, in which a similar prediction was made of severe shocks of earthquake about the 14th of January.

LOOKING FORWARD.

THE NEW MOON of the 1st of February is an *annular eclipse* of the SUN,* invisible in these islands. At London, the R.A. of the M.C. is 75° 29' 36", *Gemini* 16° 39' culminating, and *Virgo* 19° 47' ascending. Mars has just passed the upper meridian in Π 13° 11', in trine (120°) aspect with the Sun and Moon in ω 13° 17' 54", in the fifth house. This is not re-assuring to the Government, especially as Neptune is in the tenth house, retrograde; and Mercury, ruler of that house, is retrograde in the fifth. The Cabinet will be in stormy waters; and there will be sadness and suffering in high places. The education question will cause embittered debates. The elevation of Mars pre-signifies that naval and military affairs will be very prominent in Parliament; and an increase of both the army and navy will be under consideration.

The FULL MOON of the 17th of February is remarkable for the quartile aspect of the luminaries with both Saturn and Uranus setting, and for the impending conjunction of Mars with Neptune in the degree ruling the City of London. The figure of the heavens is ominous of political excitement, anxiety on account of colonial troubles, and either differences in the Cabinet or personal suffering on the part of one or more of its members. At Constantinople fanatic cruelty and revolutionary movements will be rampant this month, about the 3rd, 17th and 23rd.

* For my judgment on this eclipse see p. 51 of *Zadkiel's Almanac* for 1897.

The price of iron, leather and corn will rule high this month. On 'Change, Home Railways will fluctuate, with a tendency to droop, during the first six or seven days of the month, and again about the 17th or 18th insts.

An American theatre is likely to be destroyed by fire.

At Bombay, at the new moon, Saturn and Uranus will be in the first house or ascendant, so that the plague will, it is to be feared, continue its ravages for a time.

About 117° E., or in Java, severe earthquakes are threatened about or soon after the 17th inst. Some vibration is not improbable in the east of Europe.

PROBABLE STORM PERIODS.

February 6th, 17th to 19th, 23rd. The lowest temperature of the month around the 17th to 19th; the highest about the 23rd.

NOTES.

The position of the Sun in the tenth house and close to the upper meridian at the moment of his return to his exact longitude at birth, is of the highest importance, and pre-signifies a favourable change or advancement. This has happened thrice, viz., in 1861, 1865, and 1894, in the lifetime of one student of astrology, and the sequel in each instance was very favourable.

The Moon close to the upper meridian and well configured at the moment of solar return, is a very favourable sign. When the Moon is so posited and evilly configured, a disastrous change, or loss of status, quickly follows.

A celebrated French astrologer, observing that in Napoleon's horoscope the planet Saturn was in the house of honour, declared that "at the moment when the meridian altitude of his power should be attained, from that period he would meet with a decline as rapid as his elevation, and be finally deserted by his friends." After the fall of Napoleon this circumstance was noticed publicly in the French journals.

The quadrature of the Sun with both Saturn and Uranus is troublous for persons whose birthday-anniversary falls on the 17th or 18th of February. They are warned to safeguard their health, to live quietly, and to be very cautious in business and speculation. Those who were born in 1825, 1838, 1854, or 1867 will be especially liable to misfortune or illness.

Jupiter's position is beneficial to those who were born when the Sun or Moon held the 5th to 8th degrees of the sign *Virgo*.

The Royal Meteorological Society held a meeting on the 20th of January to compare notes as to the progress(?) of the association. The society is increasing in numbers. A lecture was delivered on "Shade Temperature" by Mr. E. Mawley, and with the aid of a large screen and a magic lantern a sufficient audience was considerably interested—so says the *Telegraph*. We are pleased to hear that the audience was amused; they generally look for some return for their money; and if they cannot have demonstrations of "progress" towards weather-forecasting, a magic lantern entertainment is something to be grateful for, no doubt. The President and Council have not yet formulated any effective reply to the article on the R. M. Society *versus* Weather Prediction printed in *Zadkiel's Almanac* for 1896.

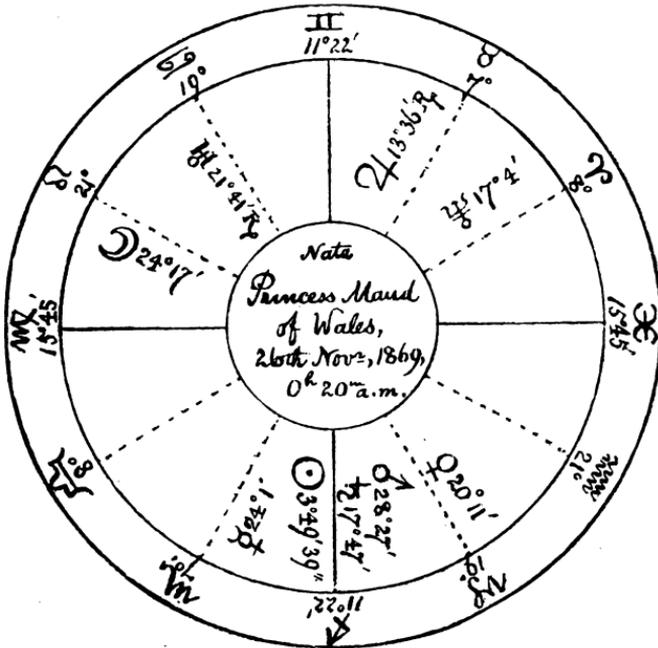
Shipmasters are, of all men, most deeply interested in foreknowledge of storm-periods. They should therefore regard those astronomic phenomena which have been observed by astro-meteorologists, for centuries past, to coincide with (and apparently the remote cause of) atmospheric disturbance. They should not allow the President and Council of the Royal Brit. Met. Society to mislead them into believing that there is no such force in planetary action because of the great distances attributed to the heavenly bodies. Astro-meteorology must not be treated as a superstition, for it is a science, viz., observation reasoned upon, and then brought under general principles, as distinguished from simple accumulated experience, which is mere empiricism. In 1864, we published the "Weather Guide-Book" in order to call attention to *astro-meteorology*. In 1889, in the second volume of the "Text-Book of Astrology," we gave a concise treatise on predictive meteorology. Yet "British meteorologists" will not enquire into planetary action on the atmosphere, etc.

It is worthy of remark that the Buddhists, on the basis of Indian Chronology, reckon that the 11th of April, 1898, will be the critical day of the close of the 5,000 years of Kali-Yuga; and that Mr. J. B. Dimbleby, the able chronologist, calculates that Easter Sunday, April 10th, 1898, will be the beginning of the New Era—*vide Zadkiel's Almanac* for 1897, pp. 66-68.

In the Hebrew the names of Adam and Eve were respectively *Isch* and *Ischa*, and these names, in the language of Eri, mean a male and female fish. The Scythians fancied that man and all animals were originally inhabitants of the waters—before the Almighty fiat:—"Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear!" *Genesis* i, 9.

HOROSCOPE OF H.R.H. PRINCESS MAUD OF WALES.

This charming and gifted Princess was born at 0^h 20^m a.m. of the 26th of November, 1869, at Marlborough House, London. The Right Ascension of the Meridian was then 4^h 39^m 16.38^s or 69° 49' 6" in arc; *Gemini* 11° 22' culminating and *Virgo* 15° 45' ascending.



Planets.	Latitude.	Declination.	Right Ascen.	Merid. Dist.	Semi-Arc.		
					°	'	"
Sun ... ☉	—	20 55 46 S	241 49 15	7 59 51	118	31	46
Moon ... ☾	2 6 N	15 25 23 N	147 18 28	77 29 22	110	9	9
Mercury ☿	0 36 N	18 12 31 S	231 47 35	18 1 31	114	15	4
Venus ... ♀	2 47 S	24 40 36 S	292 17 40	42 28 34	125	0	51
Mars ... ♂	0 59 S	24 25 11 S	268 18 9	18 29 3	124	32	29
Jupiter ♃	1 16 S	14 43 44 N	41 32 36	28 16 30	109	9	54
Saturn ♄	1 15 N	21 38 37 S	256 49 53	7 0 47	120	42	19
Uranus ♅	0 28 N	22 10 34 N	113 30 24	43 41 18	120	35	56
Neptune ♆	1 42 S	5 8 41 N	16 23 5	53 26 1	96	27	21

The Sun is in the third house (or division of the heavens) in the sign *Sagittarius* $3^{\circ} 49' 39''$, in sesqui-quadrate (135°) aspect with Neptune and the semi-quartile (45°) with Venus; and applying to the sesqui-quadrate with Uranus. The Moon is in the twelfth house, in *Leo* $24^{\circ} 17'$, in quartile (90°) aspect with Mercury; and applying to the trine (120°) with Mars and the zodiacal parallel (*i.e.* of declination) with Jupiter. Mercury is in the third house, in *Scorpio* $24^{\circ} 1'$, separating from sextile (60°) aspect with Venus and trine with Uranus. Venus is in the fifth house, in *Capricornus* $20^{\circ} 11'$, in opposition with Uranus, parallel with Mars, and separating from quartile with Neptune. Mars is in the fourth house (lower meridian), in *Sagittarius* $28^{\circ} 27'$, in sesqui-quadrate with Jupiter, and separating from conjunction with Saturn. Jupiter is in the ninth house, retrograde in $13^{\circ} 36'$ of *Taurus*. Saturn is in the ninth house, in *Sagittarius* $17^{\circ} 47'$, in trine with Neptune. Uranus is in the eleventh house, in *Cancer* $21^{\circ} 41'$, retrograde, and nearly in quartile with Neptune in *Aries* $17^{\circ} 4'$, in the eighth house.

The close configuration of the Moon with Mercury in the third house, and her parallel with Jupiter in the ninth, and a mercurial sign ascending, would naturally confer an acute, penetrating intellect, an independent spirit, an active disposition, and a love of science, music, art, and literature. The mental talents are far above mediocrity. The disposition is generous, joyous, amiable, and truly religious without narrow-mindedness. There is love of travelling and of change of scene. Jupiter being well elevated and in trine with the ascending degree, is promising for advancement and happiness.

The marriage of H.R.H. Princess Maud with Prince Carl of Denmark took place on the 22nd of July, 1896, the Ptolemaic arc for the happy event measuring $26^{\circ} 39'$. We find, on calculation, the following primary directions measuring closely thereto:

Ascendant sextile Sun, zodiac, ...	$25^{\circ} 37'$
Moon trine Jupiter, zodiac, sine lat.	$26^{\circ} 4'$
Sun conjunction Mars, zodiac, ...	$26^{\circ} 46'$
Sun parallel Jupiter, zodiac, converse, ...	$27^{\circ} 19'$

It is singular that both in this horoscope and in that of Prince Carl (*vide* p. 5) Mercury is in a house ruling literary and scientific tastes. This, together with the trine aspect formed between the place of the Sun at Princess Maud's birth with that of the Moon at Prince Carl's, is an omen of concord and marital happiness.

The quartile ray of Saturn, in the fourth house, with the ascending degree foreshadowed the nearly fatal illness of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales a year after the birth of Princess Maud. In the latter part of her life this position of Saturn threatens some occasional suffering from sciatica or rheumatism of the extremities.

CHALDÆAN HOROSCOPY.

The *Pall Mall Magazine*, August, 1896, contained a remarkable article by F. Legge, Esq., on "How to tell Fortunes by the Stars." The talented writer states that some years ago he was engaged upon certain Oriental MSS. of the early Christian centuries, and found that he had to contend with pages of astrological terms of which he could not make head or tail, and dictionaries affording no help, he was compelled to undertake the regular study of astrology. "The study, though mortally tedious," says the writer, "did not present any insuperable difficulties, and in a short time I was able to cast the horoscopes of my friends and myself to our common edification. I soon discovered, however, that life was too short for such amusements. The sums in trigonometry involved in the casting of a single nativity occupied me for nearly a week, and I then saw why it was that astrologers were always poor men.... Moreover, I saw after a time that my new accomplishment was useless for the purpose with which it had been acquired. The system of predictions professed by modern astrologers might, indeed, be traced to two books attributed—I believe very wrongly—to Claudius Ptolemy, the founder of modern* astronomy and geography who wrote about 145 A.D.; but into this respectable old bottle new wine had been poured. For the calculations from which their own predictions were drawn were founded on data concerning the true motion of the earth which were certainly not at the disposal of Ptolemy and the Babylonians, on whose observations his astronomical system was confessedly based. I was therefore still in the dark as to the method of figure-casting used by the astrologers of Hadrian's time, and so I remained until a hint in a French journal which I met with accidentally gave me a clue to the solution of the mystery. The examination of some Babylonian horoscopes in cuneiform character recently deciphered by the learned Jesuits, Fathers Epping and Strassmaier, convinced me that I was on the right road; and in the end I was able to work out the whole process. Like other great inventions it is extremely simple, and by its aid any person who knows the hour of his own birth can tell his fortune by the stars in about ten minutes. Although my faith in it as a means of prying into futurity is of the smallest, I can at any rate assure my readers that its practice is free from the dangers to health of mind and body which beset the neophyte in mesmerism and spiritualism.

"The assumed starting-point of the ecliptic is one of those where it intersects the equator, and is called by common consent

* This is evidently an error, for the Ptolemaic system was discarded in favour of the Copernican system of astronomy three centuries ago.—ED.

the *First Point of Aries*. The place of a planet is measured along the ecliptic by the number of signs of the Zodiac and degrees that it is distant from the first point of Aries, and is called its *longitude*. As the planets are practically the only heavenly bodies to which the astrologer pays attention, we have only to ascertain the longitude of each of them in the ecliptic, and how much of the latter line is above and how much below the earth, to be able to draw a map of the heavens for any particular moment.

“To do this, however, in the most expeditious way, the reader must be introduced to an instrument called, incongruously enough, a *protractor*. It is a flat ring of metal divided into 360 degrees, numbered from left to right like the figures on the face of a clock, and has a transverse bar in the centre, called by the French for some inscrutable reason the *Line of Faith*. It can be bought at any optician's for a few shillings, and is made in many different sizes. In practice you will find it an advantage to use one of not less than four or more than six inches.

“With the help of this instrument we can now proceed to draw a horoscope. Place the protractor in the centre of a sheet of paper, and draw round it a circle. Then mark very accurately with a pencil the centre of a circle, which you will find indicated by a vertical line bisecting the transverse bar of the instrument. Having done this, make a dot with the pencil on the circle drawn on the paper opposite to the figures 30, 60, 90, and so on at every 30th degree marked on the protractor. Remove the protractor from the paper, and draw, with a flat ruler and the ruling pen, a line one inch long through the circumference of the circle at each dot. Then write in the outer half of the twelve spaces thus formed the signs of the Zodiac, in their order, ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓, remembering that this will be contrary to that of the figures on a clock.

“Your next care must be to place the planets in the signs according to their respective longitudes. For this purpose you will require an *Ephemeris* giving the geocentric positions. Prior to 1840, White's *Ephemeris* will best answer your purpose. From 1840 onwards I would recommend Zadkiel's *Ephemeris*, which has been much improved of late, and costs but sixpence a year. The longitudes must be reduced, by proportion, to the time for which your figure is to be cast. . . .

“There now remain to be ascertained the portions of the ecliptic above and below the earth respectively. This is a problem which seems to have given the astrologers of the ancient and modern times much trouble, and there can be little doubt that originally it was determined by actual inspection of the heavens at the moment of birth. But with the help of the protractor it

can be resolved at any time and place,* with the data that we have already obtained from the Ephemeris. Bearing in mind that the Sun, wherever placed in the ecliptic, is at noon and midnight exactly perpendicular to the astronomical horizon, that he is at the eastern extremity of it at six o'clock in the morning, and at the western at six in the evening; it is plain that we have only to mark on the circle of the horoscope the place of the Sun in the ecliptic at the nearest noon, to place opposite to it the 90th degree of the protractor, and then to prolong the Line of Faith or transverse bar until it cuts the circle on either side, to divide the ecliptic into two halves, of which the upper will represent that part of the ecliptic which is above, and the lower that which is below the earth at the time stated. If the birth is at midnight the 270th degree of the instrument must be used; if at 6 a.m. the 360th, and if at 6 p.m. the 180th, with the same result in each case. When, however, the birth takes place at some time other than one of the cardinal hours, the process is a little more complicated.

“The rules by which astrologers profess to judge of the fortune of the native can only be briefly touched upon here..... The circumstances over which the planets exercised influence were shown by their position in the nativity...He who is curious in such matters should refer to Pearce's ‘Text-Book of Astrology,’ which is the most exhaustive, or to Wilson's ‘Dictionary of Astrology,’ which is the most rational work I have yet met with on the subject.

“All such systems may be unhesitatingly condemned, because they are founded on the cabalistic fallacy that things which are associated in the mind have necessarily a real as well as an imaginary connection with each other. This mistake, as Professor Tylor long since pointed out, lies at the root of all known means of divination† and of much human error besides. It is due to this that sensible people once believed that because a certain constellation happened to bear some faint resemblance to a bull, persons born when it is rising must have a ‘tuft of hair on the forehead,’ and an impetuous and bull-like disposition.....

“It does not follow from these considerations that the heavenly bodies have no influence upon the constitution, and—which is perhaps merely the same thing—the mental disposition of the creatures born under them; and it would be wise not to dogmatise too strongly on the extent of it. In one sense we are all astrologers: for to what but the changing position of the

* A protractor can only give correct results for places very near the equator.—ED.

† Genethliology is not divination; it is the *horary* branch of astrology that comes under this head —ED.

planets can we attribute the backwardness of May lambs, of July horses, and of chickens hatched later than March? Moreover, recent discoveries all tend to show the existence of hitherto unsuspected ways in which some at least of the planets act upon the earth and its inhabitants. Setting aside the action of the Sun and Moon upon the tides as partly known to the ancients, in the connection of the sun-spots with magnetic storms, in the microbe-killing energy of the Sun's light, in ordinary photography, and—I suppose the reference is inevitable—the X rays, we have instances of strictly 'planetary' influence, which go far beyond anything within the ken of our ancestors. It is not, therefore, absolutely beyond belief that an astrology based on rational principles, like the *Astrologia Sana* of which Bacon dreamed, may one day present itself. But before such a theory can receive scientific investigation, its propounders must sweep away all the mystical and superstitious rubbish with which the subject has until now been surrounded, and devote themselves in the first instance to the collection of authentic facts from which practical deductions can be made. The first step towards such a goal seems to be the collection of nativities, not, as has hitherto been the case, of a few carefully chosen individuals, but of large groups in which those cases which do not bear out any particular theory shall be mingled with those which do. It should not be difficult, by means of the process here described, for anyone with a little leisure to make on a small scale an astrological *Almanach de Gotha* which should comprise the nativities of the reigning families of Europe. The births of such exalted personages are generally noted with sufficient accuracy, while the main incidents of their lives are matter of common notoriety. Such a collection might therefore have a real interest for science: and the horoscopes of the Queen's direct descendants here given may possibly serve as a pattern."

We must reserve comment on this interesting article for the next number of "Star-Lore," with the remark that the horoscopes of the Queen and her direct descendants as drawn by Mr. Legge with the protractor are very incorrect; for example, the figure for Her Majesty's birth shows the Sun and Moon in the *second* house instead of in the first (*at sunrise*).

A NEW STAR of the Algol type, having bright and faint minima, ranging over a whole magnitude, has been discovered by Dr. Hartwig, in Hercules. It changes in the same manner as Algol, with a period of 3 days 23hrs. 50m. Its place for 1896 is in R.A. 17^h 53^m 47^s, and declination 15° 8' 49" N.

PLANETARY INFLUENCE

BY LADY BLOUNT.

Ah ! Beauteous stars,
 Your signs do not deceive,
 Magnetic in your force,
 Your rays my soul relieve !
 Your power extends
 Above earth's hills and vales,
 Yet soft descends
 To lowest dales.
 Your agency's divine
 And shining ever ;
 Ye influence ev'ry act,
 Compelling, never !
 One rules above your power,
 Whose aid is given,
 To raise in trying hour
 Our thoughts to heaven.

It is the practice of some to condemn both things and persons unheard if contrary to their feelings or their prejudices. Others, more noble-minded, will search and examine into things before exercising their judgment. Many people, for instance, condemn astrology who have never investigated its claims, and who know nothing of its principles. This may be caused partly by the fact that in astrology, as in some other branches of learning, there are pretenders to the knowledge thereof. Nevertheless, a thinking mind will discriminate between the true and the false. We do not throw away *all* our good money because or whenever we have been cheated with a bad half-crown. Do we ?

All astronomers were formerly astrologers, who studied not only star motions, but their influences. According to the prophet Moses, God gave the stars for "Signs and Seasons," but modern astronomers leaving the Creator's Word have ignored their "signs" and influence as magnetic centres of light and force, and have made "suns" and "worlds" of them !

We read in the first chapter of Genesis, 14th verse, God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years" ; and turning to Alfred J. Pearce's *Work on Genethialogy*, vol. 1, page 5, it states, "the word translated 'lights' should have been rendered 'instruments of light, and 'in the firmament of the heavens,' should read 'in the *expanse* of the heavens.'" "Let them be for signs" should be "let them be for signs of the future." The word is *latheth*, and it signifies *sign of the future*. Anyone who will be at the trouble to investigate can soon convince himself of the "influence which

the planets exert on the state of the weather ; for instance, when the Sun is with Saturn the temperature is lowered, while with Mars it is raised. It is notorious, too, that the Moon's changes and position influence the weather, and whatever influences the weather influences mankind. Fine weather under Jupiter's influence makes us feel glad and happy. Wet, cold, or foggy weather under Saturn and Venus aspects makes us feel and say, "what miserable weather !"

Astrology is not a degrading but an ennobling science. As in fact all truth expands and ennobles the mind when honestly sought out and practised. The stars are not probably the mythical "millions" of miles away our modern teachers would wish us to believe ; being comparatively near and created for this (the only) world, they are made to affect or influence the atmosphere and through the atmosphere those who breathe it. I say "influence," as they do not *compel* us against our will to any so-called "fated" course or end. The Moon notably influences some persons, animals, and even vegetation, as those who have watched these things can testify. Our word "lunatic" comes from *Luna*, the Latin name of the moon, and means moon-struck. It is easy to pooh-pooh these things, but can they be proved false ? Does history furnish any example of anyone who ever fairly investigated these things by the rules given in the best astrological works, and found they were false ? I say not. All who examine it in a candid spirit are unavoidably convinced of the truth of astral influence ; and those who in ignorance of these things declaim against it, are not worth listening to. What is an opinion worth if not founded on examination and experience ? I can only say that, as far as I have examined and observed these things, I have found the study of Nature (including the study of the stars, etc.) interesting, instructive, and ennobling. And it embraces a fascination and charm which is neither artificial nor superficial.

THE TSAR OF RUSSIA.

BERLIN, January 16th.—The *Lokal Anzeiger* publishes the following telegram from St. Petersburg :—"While walking in the park at Tsarskoe Selo the Tsar beckoned to a gardener engaged at work to approach him. The man hastened to obey, but a guard, thinking he was running to attack the Emperor, shot him dead. His Majesty was deeply affected by the occurrence."

The Emperor of Russia is evidently feeling the effects of the conjunction of Saturn with Uranus taking place in opposition to the place of the Sun at his birth. The Empress has been seriously indisposed, we regret to hear.

Correspondence.

We have received many congratulatory letters *re* "STAR LORE." Space will not permit of more than the following extracts :—

A medical gentleman writes as follows : " I take an interest in astrology because, as worked out by you, it is evidently a science which requires deep study and care in calculation in order to give such results as I have proved you have been able to forecast. In 1890, you said, in reference to one horoscope cast for me, ' an early marriage is predicted ' ; you described the husband as well as the lady, whose horoscope it was ; and it came true in a very marked manner. Another lady, whose horoscope you cast about the same time, has just married in her 36th year a gentleman whose acquaintance she had not then formed, and your description of the event was startling, *viz.*, ' If this young lady chooses to marry and so increase her cares and responsibilities, this event will probably occur in her 36th or 38th year. The husband will be quite medium height, inclined to tallness, rosy-cheeked, and good-natured.' This is even now the best description that could be applied to the gentleman. I must honestly say that I have now had five or six horoscopes cast by you, and in each case the results are wonderful. Personally, I am only an interested spectator ; and, whilst I consider you do your work conscientiously and well, there may be a good many astrologers who are no more fit to practise the science than I am, and who only bring discredit upon it."

F. H. writes :—" I shall be happy to become a subscriber to STAR LORE, or anything else you may publish. I have tried two or three contemporary publications but they are valueless to me, for one may read page after page and be none the wiser. I have more evidence of the truth of primary directional influence than I can put on record, having computed, thanks to your instruction, hundreds of primary directions in various nativities. I offer you my heartiest wishes that you may enjoy a long, healthy, and prosperous life."

J. L. writes :—" I send you my subscription to STAR LORE. I have purchased every periodical on astrology issued, and have ever considered your works to be far and away first amongst them all."

J. E., of Liverpool, writes :—" I have derived more benefit and instruction from your publications and works than all others put together."

H. B., author of the "Planisphere and Treatise," writes:—"I hasten to congratulate you on your new publication, which I trust will prove a great success, and benefit you personally. Your works show much talent, knowledge and experience, and few readers have any adequate appreciation of the sterling quality of them."

We are very grateful to our correspondents for their exceedingly kind expression of their congratulations and promises of support of "STAR LORE"; and regret that we have not been able to respond to every letter by post. Some of our friends have inquired why we spell our *nom-de-plume* "Zedekiel" instead of Zadkiel? The reason is that Zadkiel must be exclusively used in connection with *Zadkiel's Almanac*, which we have edited since 1876. As a Jovian sign ascended at our birth and Jupiter had just risen in succession to the Sun, we have some right to the title of Zedekiel.

"ASTRONOMY.—By her ancient name ASTROLOGY, as we say Theology, not Theonomy: the knowledge of so much of the stars as we can know wisely; not the attempt to define their laws for them—not that it is unbecoming of us to find out, if we can, that they move in ellipses, and so on; but it is no business of ours. What effects their rising and setting have on Man, and beast, and leaf; what their times and changes are, seen and felt in this world, it is our business to know, passing our nights, if wakefully, by that divine candlelight, and no other."—Ruskin. "Mornings in Florence," "The Strait Gate," 5th morning.

TABLES OF HOUSES.

A set of "Tables of Houses" for every degree of latitude in Great Britain and for several cities abroad; and tables of the geocentric longitude, latitude, and declination of the planet Neptune for several back years, were given in the various numbers of "FUTURE" from June, 1893, to July, 1894. These tables are indispensable to astral students. The ten numbers of "FUTURE" containing them may be had for six shillings and sixpence, of Messrs. Glen and Co, 328, Strand, London.