

STAR LORE

AND

FUTURE EVENTS.

By the Editor of ZADKIEL'S ALMANAC.

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THE CRISIS IN THE FAR EAST.

THE CRISIS in CHINA is still acute, for Russian pressure is still brought to bear heavily on the Celestials as if British interests and action were a negligible quantity. Russian and British ironclads are being sent to reinforce their respective squadrons in Chinese waters; and Woolwich Arsenal is as busy as when war is imminent.

In our last issue we traced the disturbing influence of the planetary positions at and immediately following the Annular Eclipse of the SUN, of April 6th, 1894, the central line of which passed across Southern India and China, the rule of this eclipse extending until July, 1899. We mentioned the fact that the conjunction of MARS with SATURN near the midheaven at Pekin, on the 27th of November, 1897, roused again the influence of the 1894 eclipse, just ere the total eclipse of the SUN, of January 22nd, 1898, came into prominence. We gave a diagram of the heavens, at the moment of new moon at Pekin, for each of those eclipses, in our last issue. We will now present our readers with a diagram of the conjunction of ζ with η , at Pekin.

The student who has read our articles on the conjunction of MARS with SATURN at Cabul, June 30th, 1879,* and the conjunction of the same planets in *Scorpio*, November 15th, 1895, † is impressed with the power of those evil planets, when in a direct line with the earth, to excite the minds and evil passions of unscrupulous and violent Mars-men, and so to bring about great crises, if not actual warfare, even in these days when a desire for peace permeates the leading statesmen of Europe. Formerly, the belief in the disturbing effect of the conjunction of the two infortunes was universal: Scott, in "Kenilworth," wrote "as sure as the conjunction of Mars with Saturn threatens misfortune." Edlyn wrote: "It may be easily called to mind what happened with us in England upon the effects of the conjunction of Saturn with

* Vide *Urania* for January, 1880, p. 21.

† Vide ZADKIEL'S ALMANAC for 1895 and 1897.

Mars in *Aries*, in the year 1641, how ominous was that dismal conjunction of Saturn and Mars in *Taurus* to Ireland, notably predicted by John Booker in his almanac for 1646. What notable effects followed that as notable conjunction of the same planets in the sign *Gemini*, not only to the City of London, and in the nation of England in particular, but more particularly to the body and affairs of the late King Charles I. and the Duke of Hamilton, the conjunction happening near the cusp of the 10th house (upper meridian) in the nativity of the one, and near the opposite place of the Sun in the nativity of the other. Most worthy of the consideration of every judicious astrologer, this conjunction being sufficiently handled by Lilly, in a book by itself, to which I refer you. Anno 1650, there happened a conjunction of Mars with Saturn in *Cancer*—what inundations of waters at Amsterdam in Holland (that country being ruled by that sign), notably predicted by Culpepper; and divers other places, especially that at Bilbao, etc., the year following; how ominous was this conjunction to the Scots' undertakings. Again in the year 1652, there happened a conjunction of these unfortunate planets in *Leo*, and what prodigious effects it produced to Italy in general and Rome in particular (ruled by that sign); I need not recite that raging and consuming plague, eminent testimonies to the verity of its effects."

The conjunction of MARS with SATURN, of the 27th of November, 1897, took place in the sign *Sagittarius* $3^{\circ} 32' 5''$, at $3^{\text{h}} 26^{\text{m}} 3^{\text{s}}$ a.m., Greenwich mean time. In the *Nautical Almanac* the time of conjunction is given as 7^{h} , approximately, in the afternoon of that day, but the official astronomers only computed it in *right ascension* to the nearest hour. Astrologers compute planetary conjunctions in ecliptic longitude—just as the conjunction of the Sun with the Moon (new moon) is computed.

At Peking, the conjunction (in longitude) took place at $11^{\text{h}} 12^{\text{m}} 2^{\text{s}}$ a.m. of the 27th November, 1897. The annexed diagram is drawn for that moment of time at the Chinese capital—the seat of Government. The conjunction is not a very close one, as the latitudes of the conjoined planets differ $1^{\circ} 59' 13''$, and it is less evil than usual, because Jupiter is in sextile aspect with them.

Notwithstanding, the import of the conjunction is evil enough for China, it takes place in the 10th house, the conjoined planets afflict the Sun, Uranus is elevated above all the heavenly bodies and but 3° from culmination. Its worst effects will, we believe, be felt in December next when Mars will be stationary in *Leo* $8^{\circ} 41'$. in the seventh house (that of war) of this figure.

The student will observe that Saturn is (by reason of his north latitude) elevated nearly 2° above Mars, the ruler of the

Port Arthur and Kiao-Chau being situated 4° to 5° farther east than Peking, the conjoined planets, MARS and SATURN, would be very close indeed to the meridian at those places, SATURN especially.

At Peking, at the moment of conjunction, the sign *Aquarius* $5^{\circ} 28'$ ascended—almost the exact longitude of MARS (*Aquarius* $6^{\circ} 11'$) at the great Solar Eclipse of April 6th, 1894; and the Solar Eclipse of January 22nd, 1898, takes place in *Aquarius* $2^{\circ} 21' 16''$.

Within a few days of the occurrence of this conjunction of MARS with SATURN, the Germans seized Kiao-Chau, and the Russians occupied Port Arthur. In February the French pressed their claims on the Chinese Government. British, Russian, French, Japanese, and German war-vessels are now in the China Seas, watching each other and awaiting the development of events.

The student should watch the transits of Mars and Saturn over the salient points of the figures of the heavens given for the two Solar Eclipses (1894 and 1898), and the conjunction of Mars with Saturn, at pages 18, 19, and 35 of STAR LORE.

LOOKING FORWARD.

The Vernal Ingress takes place at $2^{\text{h}} 6^{\text{m}} 4 \text{ p.m.}$ of the 20th of March. We have already given our opinion on its indications at p. 55 of ZADKIEL'S ALMANAC. Writing in July last year, we foretold "a good deal of anxiety as to foreign questions, and, in fact, imminent risk of warlike measures. If a bold front be shown by our Government, no war, foreign or colonial, will be forced upon us. Restlessness and sedition in India may tempt a powerful enemy to press us hard, but there is no reason why we should drift into open warfare. The danger is indicated; it is for our statesmen to provide against it, and to take advantage of the good influences so that we may preserve peace with honour." Again, "At Capetown, Mars in the descendant angle is very unfavourable to peace, and strong measures will be necessary to convince our enemies that Britons and Afrikanders mean to safeguard their possessions by force of arms if necessary."

Our Colonial Secretary has shown a bold front to our rivals and enemies, but he does not seem to have been adequately supported, hitherto, by the Foreign Office. We have to judge our rivals by their actions, and not by their pacific assurances.

We do not like the elevation of Mars above the luminaries, at the moment of new moon on the 22nd of March at $8^{\text{h}} 37^{\text{m}} 1 \text{ a.m.}$

London, for it accentuates the danger of war indicated in the figure of the heavens for the vernal equinox. Neither do we like the position of Saturn *stationary* in the seventh house, for it is ominous of treachery. Our Government should accept the warning, and beware of double-dealing on the part of French and Russian officials. A sudden blow will, there is too much reason to fear, be struck against the power of Great Britain in Asia and Africa. Happily, there is every indication of our insidious enemies being utterly worsted, and that speedily. The period extending from the 6th to the 28th of March will certainly be critical for Old England.

The relations between the United States and Spain are certain to be severely strained, towards the latter part of this month, and, unless wise counsels prevail, a rupture will take place.

The Japanese will enter upon a time of trial, and will meet with some serious misfortunes, but good will come out of evil as Jupiter is supreme at the equinox at Tokio.

Naval and military men, surgeons, engineers, ironworkers, and shipbuilders in Old England will do well in the spring quarter. Musicians and literary men will also prosper. Theatres are not likely to do so well as usual, however.

Let those of our readers who were born when either the Sun, Moon, ascendant or mid-heaven held the 12th or 13th degree of Sagittarius beware of illness, accident, or misfortune.

THE TRIAL OF M. ZOLA.

MONSIEUR EMILE ZOLA has paid a heavy penalty for speaking his mind on the Dreyfus affair and the procedure of a court-martial in France. The trial of M. Zola has been full of incident from day to day, and the popular excitement in connexion with it has been great in Paris. M. Zola has been in imminent personal danger, and but for the protection afforded him by the police would probably have been foully murdered.

Students of the science of the stars will be interested in the horoscope of the clever French author. In *STAR LORE*, vol. i., p. 110, we stated that the time of birth was given in the acte de naissance as 11^h p.m. of the 2nd of April, 1840, at Paris.

The horoscope may be readily cast, by the student, with the aid of the following elements:—R.A. of M.C., 176°20'25" *Virgo* 26°1' culminating; *Sagittarius* 2°54' ascendant. Sun in *Aries* 13°16'. Moon in *Aries* 17°32'. Mercury in *Aries* 21°30', retrograde. Venus in *Pisces* 13°42'. Mars in *Aries* 20°41'.

Jupiter in *Scorpio* 17°28', retrograde. Saturn in *Sagittarius* 21°44', retrograde. Uranus in *Pisces* 17°53'. Neptune in *Aquarius* 14°24'. Declinations: Sun 5°14½'N. Moon 10°3'N. Mercury 11°19'N. Venus 7°34'S. Mars 7°41'N. Jupiter 15°48'S. Saturn 21°41'S. Uranus 5°28'S.

The primary directions now operating in the 58th and 59th years are:—

Midheaven sesqui-quadrate Moon, mundo, 57°41'

Midheaven sesqui-quadrate Sun, mundo, 57°52'

Ascend' opposition Mars, zodiac, converse, 57°58'

Ascend' opposition Mars, mundo, converse, 58°16'

The unpopularity and powerful enemies incurred by M. Zola at this time could not be more clearly pre-signified than by this train of evil directions. Danger to life is also shown by these primary arcs, for the ascendant is hyleg. The Sun, at birth, had the mundane quartile with Saturn in the ascendant; the Moon was very nearly in conjunction with Mars in a sign (*Aries*) of the fiery triplicity, and the Moon was in sesqui-quadrate (135°) aspect with the ascending degree—these are violent configurations threatening a violent or sudden end.

It must not be overlooked that Uranus was in transit over the ascendant (*Sagittarius* 2°54') at the end of January, and will remain within little over half a degree of it throughout February, March and April, being *stationary* in 3°33' of the ascending sign on the 8th of March. Saturn is also in the ascending sign.

We have not had sufficient time to calculate all the primary directions in this interesting nativity; but we observe that the Moon came to opposition of the midheaven by direction at 18½ years of age, when M. Zola's mother was ruined by a lawsuit with the Corporation of Aix—his father having constructed the canal at Aix. Thus:—

Right ascension of Moon, 14°49'30"
add 360°

374°49'30"

Subtract R.A. of I.C., 356°20'25"

Arc of M.C. 3 D mundo = 18°29' 5"

M. Zola began his first novel of the R.M. series in May 1869; and he married in July of the same year, under the following primary directions:—

Moon sextile Venus, zodiac, direct, 28° 9'

Midheaven trine Mercury, mundo, converse, 28°56'

D parallel Venus, zodiac, converse, 29°44'

These coincidences are sufficient to show that the time of birth is very correct, and that primary directions do really influence the events of life when they operate.

The direction of Mars to the opposition of the ascendant, mundo, converse, is thus computed :—

Semi-arc of Mars $81^{\circ}10'36''$

Mer. dist of Mars $22^{\circ}54'17''$

Arc of direction = $58^{\circ}16'19''$

The student should carefully compute the primary directions we have enumerated and so verify them. The rules for working them will be found in the appendix to the *second* edition of THE SCIENCE OF THE STARS.

THE PRESS VERSUS ASTROLOGY.

OUR protest, in our last issue, against the unfair manner in which nearly all the leading journals treat astrology, while vociferously exclaiming against the "insulting and ridiculous decree" of officials restricting their liberty, seems to have excited the ire of certain leader-writers. It might be expected of editors and journalists at the end of the century that they should evince a fair and impartial spirit in dealing with astrology—the most ancient of all sciences and the nursing mother of astronomy, as even Proctor was forced to admit—than was evinced by their predecessors of thirty years ago and more. It appears, however, that with very few honourable exceptions, the Press indulges still in its habitual opposition to and persecution of those who follow the lead of Bacon, Kepler, and the many wise and great men who have pursued astrology. They deny the possibility of foreseeing future events in the slightest degree. The editor of the *Times*, in 1871, wrote as follows :—

"If we could look into futurity, should we be wise in doing so? Could our foreknowledge avail us to ward off evil consequences from ourselves or others, the most incurious among us would be eager enough to take a peep behind the curtain; but since this implies a contradiction in terms, we may well rest contented in our ignorance. The desire, however, is so firmly engrafted in the human mind that it is scarcely surprising if professional prophets rise up from time to time to endeavour to make their market of the forecasting mind of humanity."

The *Times* writer narrowed the point of controversy between himself and the advocates of the feasibility of foreseeing the future, by his admission that if our foreknowledge could "avail us to ward off evil consequences from ourselves or others, the most incurious would be eager enough to take a peep behind the curtain." But, he adds, that "this would be a contradiction in terms." Zadkiel I. joined issue with the *Times* writer,*

* Vid. *Zadkiel's Almanac* for 1872, pp. 50-52.

thus:—"We deny *in toto* that there is any such contradiction; for we assert and have proved that by several means we may look into the future, and so, when we foresee evil approaching, may we stand back and avoid or 'ward off evil consequences.' The desire, he positively concludes, to be 'firmly engrafted in the human mind,' and therein he is right, and speaks the truth. But may we not ask how it came there? Does not HE, 'in whom we live, and move, and have our being,' for whose good pleasure we were created, who 'knows all our necessities before we ask' does not HE, we demand, constitute man such as he is, and place in his heart every sentiment 'firmly engrafted' therein. Can we suppose for a moment that he who was created in the image of his CREATOR is thrown haphazard into this world to be the footstool of fate, and the mere child of *chance*? Is not his destiny known to his Maker, who alone knows all things past, present, and to come? Is there, or has there ever been, a nation in the world that has not practised divination or something equivalent thereto? The only true reply is 'there has not been one.' We now come to the question—Is this custom good or evil *per se*? Or we may ask whether, the fact being granted that the custom has always existed, as all antiquity witnesses, it is of itself good or evil in the sight of GOD? To answer this query is a task that will occupy some time, and embrace much evidence. To what but this custom did Solomon refer, when he spoke of the 'words of the wise and their dark sayings'? Granted the Hebrews (having *Urim* and *Thummim* to refer to, to answer inquiries when they were very anxious about the future) were forbidden to have recourse to divination—yet this itself is doubtful; we say that other nations were not forbidden to practise this most useful art. Neither do we read any commands in the Christian Scriptures that shut us out from the practice.

"The writers in the *Times* do not rest their arguments on the wrongfulness of the practice; they go altogether on the fallacy, or unworthiness of the evidence. They declare that no such thing can be done, and say that,—'In many ways—all of them equally absurd—weak and foolish people endeavour to break through the laws imposed by Providence on the faculties of man.' But this is merely begging the question. We have the right to ask: Where and when have those said laws been given? Is providence altogether one-sided? Has Providence abandoned all the wise men of ancient days, and put under a ban all the learned men who have advocated the doctrine of the stars in Europe during the last few hundred years? And has Providence taken under special and fostering care the writer in the *Times* who declared that 'it is idle to quote the Old or New Testament to establish a scientific doctrine.'*

* *The Times*, Dec. 26th, 1868.

“These and a hundred such are the questions that our readers have to determine. If they go against us, and if they uphold the men who write against us, be it so. But let them destroy their barometers, and cease to ask how the wind blows before they begin a voyage, lest they should chance to think of storms and rains while they are still in the future. Let the drums cease to be hoisted by the Meteorological Office, and let storms come unexpectedly and destroy ships and sailors as they will, lest ‘the foolish people endeavour to break through the laws imposed by Providence, and venture to foresee the future.’ In short, let scepticism and ignorance triumph; and let knowledge, faith, and humble trust in the goodness of GOD be abolished. For to the men of science and to Press writers we say, as did Job to men of like mind—‘No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you.’”

Recently the writer of Our Handbook in the *Referee*, after penning the phrase: “To an outsider, even with a mind as open as I trust mine is,” proceeded to exhibit strong prejudice against astrology. Referring to this magazine, he wrote as follows:—“A new publication has reached me called STAR LORE, conducted by our old friend Zadkiel; not the original Zadkiel,* of course, but the reigning Zadkiel, for there appears to be a dynasty of astrologers of that name. STAR LORE advocates astrology in all its branches, and in the present issue the editor is particularly wroth with the head of the Meteorological Office for saying that anybody who pretends to forecast the weather in this country for more than 24 hours is a charlatan. The weather, according to Zadkiel, is governed by planetary combinations, and can, therefore, be predicted years ahead, like eclipses. Well, conceivably, the ocean of air enveloping the earth may be affected by the pull of the planets through gravitation, as the tides are affected by the moon, though the theory seems to want verification. But what are we to say to the railway accident at Gjentolte, Denmark, on the 11th of July last year. By what conceivable *modus operandi* could the combined influence of Mars and the Moon have produced the railway disasters at that place, in Cassel, Belgium, and Warsaw? And if the influence extended over such a wide area as Denmark, Germany, Belgium, and Poland, why were there not more disasters? There must have been many trains running that night in happy ignorance of their peril. Above all, why did not the astrologers warn us of these disasters beforehand? Truly, reason must be ‘the very smallest factor in human belief. Evidently the charlatan need never despair of finding a clientèle.”

Now the presence of Mars in the third house, or division

Zadkiel I. died in February, 1874.—ED.

of the heavens—that which rules railways—and in quartile aspect with the conjoined planets, Saturn and Uranus, at the moment of new moon in Denmark, Belgium, Germany, and Poland, was *symbolic*—not the cause—of a great disaster on a railway. It is absurd to ask “why were there not more disasters”—like Mercutio’s wound, those that happened “will serve,” although they might have been greater, to illustrate the symbology of planetary positions and configurations at eclipses, ingresses, and new moons. It might as well be asked, when a number of men are killed in a battle, or the explosion of a vessel of war, why were there not more killed?

Evidently, the writer referred to thinks too much of reason and too little of close observation and experience; and openness of mind must be the smallest factor in his character. He should remember that in the case of influenza, although the atmosphere is charged with the malaria, and every part of the country affected, every individual will not be struck down with it.

Had the astrologers of Denmark, etc., cast the figure for the moment of new moon there, they could have foretold the calamity. After it happened, our Danish correspondent cast the figure for the new moon preceding it, in order to search for the astral indication of the terribly fatal accident, and sent us a copy of the figure.

The writer in question, like most journalists who criticise astrology, is silent as to the successful predictions made in ZADKIEL’S ALMANAC—evidently it is distasteful to him that an astrologer can ever make successful predictions.

The new moon of the 30th of June, 1897, took place at 2^h 55^m a.m., London, when Mars was in the fourth house and in quartile with Saturn and Uranus in the sixth (that ruling the navy). Accordingly, we warned “the naval authorities to take extra precautions against accidents to and collisions of ironclads.”

During the naval manœuvres the battleship “Mars” was disabled by an accident, and the “Terrible” was partly disabled. Then a collision between the “Phaeton” and the “Thrasher” took place, the latter vessel being seriously damaged. Perhaps the critic will ask, “why were there not more disasters, seeing that many more ships were afloat at the same time?” He cannot ask, in this instance, “why did not the astrologers warn us of these disasters?” The critic uses, moreover, the word “dis—aster,” unthinkingly; he must have forgotten for the moment that this word means “the blow of an evil star,” being derived from *dis* and *astrum*.

From a *Referee* we expect impartial judgment.

CONTRADICTORY LONGEVITY.

The *Evening Standard*, November 20th, 1897, contained an interesting article on Contradictory Longevity, showing how contradictory in detail have been the habits of different people who have attained to abnormal age. For, as a general theory, most of those who have lived to great ages have recommended temperance, sleep, early rising, and exercise in the fresh air as the main factors in long life. To this theory the writer of the article found some exceptions. In 1790, the Rev. W. Davies, rector, died at the age of 105. Probably so extraordinary a departure from all conventional rules could not be found in the records of longevity, for Mr. Davies from the age of 70 never took any exercise whatever, beyond that of slipping his feet one before the other from room to room. In his diet he defied all popular axioms as are now enunciated by those who teach hygiene. He was always cheerful in manner and garrulous. Although he was nearly blind for several years, he had none of the infirmities usually attending old age, and died peacefully in full possession of all his faculties except his sight.

Mrs. Lewson, who died in 1816, at the age of 116 years, had an equal dislike to exercise and to cold water. She lived well, and usually sat in her garden; never practised ablutions of any kind, yet enjoyed excellent health, cut two new teeth at the age of 87, and never took physic. Spartan frugality in diet and regular exercise in the open air, were conspicuous by their absence in both these centenarians. In each case plenty of repose in bed was taken.

Another patriarch who attained 93 years, named Pivett, of York, who died in 1796, abhorred lying in bed. He had been a soldier, serving at Fontenoy and Culloden. His house being accidentally burnt down he resolved never again to sleep in a bed lest he should be burnt in it. He lived quite alone, and was quite the opposite of the chatty Mr. Davies and Mrs. Lewson.

An out-pensioner of Chelsea Hospital, named Macleod, walked from Inverness to London in 19 days, a distance of 550 miles, in the 101st year of his age. In his case there could neither have been ample fare nor habitual repose, and very little of living by rule. But there must have been one thing in agreement with the theories of many—a large amount of porridge in the diet of the old soldier. According to some authorities porridge is in some degrees the modern substitute for the alchemists' elixir of life.

Then there is the case of John Macdonald, who died in 1827, aged 107, at Edinburgh. As a youth he was herding cattle in Skye. He passed his life in many different ways, and worked for his living until he was 97. He took plenty of exercise, lived on plain Highland fare, never was ill, and on every New Year's

Day until he was 105 danced a Scotch reel—sufficient exercise for the muscles of any man, old or young. Many other instances might be collated of contradictions in the career of centenarians.

The writer of the article concluded thus :—“ It is, therefore, with some cautious doubt that one should study the general instructions given for the attainment of patriarchal age, which, according to various writers, now is, under the modern conditions of life, attainable by any healthy person living by strict rules. But what rules ? ”

In our article on the Art of Prolonging Life—FUTURE, June, 1892—we gave careful consideration to various suggestions, and laid stress on the necessity for eradicating any congenital tendency to disease early in life.

The writer in the *Evening Standard* would have rendered his article still more interesting and more useful if he could have supplied, when hunting in the dusty bypaths of biography, the date, hour, and place of birth of some, if not all, of the centenarians whose lives he described. To be born when the “ hyleg ”—the Sun, Moon, or ascendant, as the case may be—is free from the proximity, or evil configuration, of Mars, Saturn, Uranus, or Neptune, and supported by Venus, or Jupiter, is an important necessity in attaining to longevity. It is best to have the Sun, Moon, and ascendant all free from the beams of evil and supported by benefic planets; for the Sun rules the brain, heart, and right side of the body, the Moon rules the stomach, throat, uterus, and the left side; and, if the ascendant has the presence of an evil planet, there is a liability to serious, if not fatal, accidents. Jupiter and Venus holding dominion over the nativity, give the cheerfulness which is so conducive to longevity. Those who have the hyleg at birth afflicted by Saturn are, almost invariably, liable to chronic, lingering disease.

We have the horoscope of only one centenarian—Michel Chevreul, the distinguished French chemist, who attained to 103 years. He was born at 8^h p.m. of the 31st of August, 1786, at Angers. The ascendant, *Aries* 20°, hyleg, had the zodiacal parallel of Venus and the Sun, and was free from affliction, Jupiter coming up into the first house and having the trine aspect of Mercury in *Virgo*.

The Emperor Wilhelm I. of Germany lived to within a few days of the completion of his 91st year. His horoscope is given at p. 109 of *Urania*, April, 1880. At his birth the Sun, hyleg, was supported by Jupiter, with which benefic planet the Moon was in sextile (60°) aspect. His son, the late Emperor Frederic III., lived only for 56 years; the Sun, hyleg, at his birth, had the zodiacal parallel (of declination) with Saturn, with which evil planet the Moon was in opposition and

parallel ; moreover, the Sun had only separated 8° from conjunction with Mars. In 1880, when he was in good health, we wrote that, as the Sun was afflicted at his birth, "it is not likely that he will attain the ripe age of his father."—*Urania*, August, 1880, p. 232.

ON PERFUMES.

THE ancients, who were well-acquainted with the properties of perfumes made use of them not indiscriminately but for astrologic and hygienic purposes. The horoscope was studied before the habitual use of any perfume was advised. In illustration of this fact, we may mention that of the perfumes in use at the present day, the following were regarded as "ruled" by certain of the heavenly bodies.

Rosemary is ruled by the Sun.

Lily of the valley and wallflower are ruled by the Moon.

Lavender is ruled by Mercury.

Cherry-blossom, violet, and mint were under the dominion of Venus.

Clematis, rose, and yellow jasmine were ruled by Jupiter.

Sydenham, the great physician, found lavender to be very useful in friction of paralysed limbs.

Hippocrates foretold, by means of his astrological skill, the advent of plague at Athens ; and it is related that he dispelled it by "purifying the air with fires into which were thrown sweet-scented herbs and flowers, along with other perfumes."

NOTES.

DURING the totality of the Solar eclipse of the 22nd of January, an unknown celestial body appeared between Venus and Mars, at a point where no star down to the third magnitude is marked on the star-maps, although many stars of the first magnitude in the vicinity of the Sun were not visible.

THE epidemic of smallpox at Middlesborough is an awkward fact for the vaccinators, for it has broken out among a well-vaccinated people. Lieut.-Gen. A. Phelps states that the doctors of that town have received £2,000 in extra bonuses for excellent vaccination ; and that from £8,000 to £12,000 has been spent out of the rates in order to render the Middlesborough people perfectly safe from smallpox. Yet in 48 days, in a population of 75,000, there were as many cases of smallpox, despite their "protection," as Leicester with 180,000 people

had in 48 months. Dr. W. R. Hadwen, of Gloucester, says that "at Middlesborough smallpox went ahead faster than at Gloucester; but where is the noise that was made about the Gloucester epidemic? The leading journals have made no great fuss about the terrible epidemic in highly-vaccinated Middlesborough, by, Ormsand Thornaby."

We mentioned, last month, the 19 year (Metonic) cycle of eclipses, as illustrated in the recurrence of an eclipse of the Sun in the 3rd degree of the sign *Aquarius* in 1841, 1860, 1879 and 1898.

The Chaldaean Cycle of Eclipses, of 18 years, 10 days (11 days if there are 4 leap years), $7\frac{3}{4}$ hours, is a very good one. The Metonic cycle means that an eclipse would recur in some part of the world.

EXTRACT:

THE TEN TRIBES.

In the "Calcutta Review," a stronger case than usual is made out for the claim of the Afghans to be considered the descendants of the lost tribes of Israel. In the first place, the Hebrew aspect of the Afghan is striking, and in the second place all of his commonest names are Biblical. Such are Yusuf (Joseph), Yakub (Jacob), and Ishak (Isaac). Afghan tradition, moreover, distinctly alleges an Israelitish descent, and the modern Afghans still call themselves Beni-Israel, or Children of Israel. Nor will students find that sacred history conflicts with Afghan traditions; for it states that the ten tribes were deported to Media, and Mesopotamia, and adds, in the book of Esdras, that they travelled for a year and a half to a further country called Arsareth. If Arsareth is Afghanistan, many striking circumstances are explained, such as that the hill of Takht-i-Suliman (Seat of Solomon) should have been so called, according to tradition, before the rise of Mahomedanism, and that one great section of the race should have been named from time immemorial Yusufzais, or descendants of Joseph, *i.e.*, the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. The oldest Afghan customs, moreover, distinctly suggest Israelite origin. Such are the obligation of marrying a deceased brother's widow, and the capital punishment of stoning. But the strongest evidence of all is a discovery by Dr. Moore, which ought, if established beyond a doubt, to settle the question. He states that a number of archaic inscriptions exist in Afghanistan which cannot be interpreted by any other means than transliteration into ancient

Hebrew, when their sense becomes clear. Dr. Stein, who has done splendid archæological work in the Punjab and Kashmir, has been recently at work in Tirah, and is reported to have made equally important discoveries.—*Globe*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. H. B. writes:—"STAR LORE for February is a very powerful and excellent number. Your article on the Crisis in the Far East is very telling. The story of the successive Solar eclipses in 1841, 1860, 1879, and 1898 in *Aquarius* 3°, the very degree in the midheaven at the moment of birth of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, is a sledge-hammer blow; and the skull of any one who reads it must be thick indeed if he do not feel the force of the evidence thereby afforded of planetary influence. The article is calm, logical, convincing, and supported by facts well set forth. Bismarck's horoscope comes out well, and together with the eclipses enumerated, will supply the student with an undeniable proof of the truth of astrology, which, in fact, can only be adequately appreciated by the initiated and those who are skilled and practised in the art. With C. C. M.'s article, able as it is, I cannot entirely agree, in the absence of evidence that in many of the horoscopes of thousands of victims of a common and stupendous calamity, primary directions and transits could not be found to account for death."

Mr. D. G. writes:—"The new moon in January fell in the place of Saturn in my horoscope, and although I was exceedingly cautious, I was seized with a sharp attack of influenza, congestive headache and liver trouble supervening. I was laid up for three weeks, and am still very weak. I had the primary direction, in my nativity, operating, of Sun conjunction Mars, mundo, direct 53° 20'. Your prediction that the 'martial direction is favourable to preferment but not to health,' has been exactly verified; for on my return to my office the managing director advanced my position and increased my emolument. I am anxious to testify to your skill, having watched your gallant fight for the cause of astral science for a quarter of a century."

B. B.—Most certainly we did *not* write the forecast of the New Year which appeared in the *Evening News* of the 31st of December. We are sorry that Sepharial should have brought Astrology into ridicule by casting "the horoscope of the coming year" for midnight of December 31st! It cannot have any astrological import whatever, for it has no astronomical basis, the hour at which the New Year of our Calendar begins being

purely arbitrary. There is no reason whatever to apprehend "a campaign which will employ the arms of England more or less for seven years," as Sepharial predicts. You justly remark that his forecast is not based on Nature, but on a fallacious figure of the heavens, and that it is distasteful to all true astrologers. When a "prophet" writes of the very small eclipse of the Moon of the 8th of January as having greater influence on the destinies of China than the great Solar eclipse of the 22nd of the same month, because the former fell in *Cancer*, which sign, he says, "rules China"—whereas *Libra* is the ruling sign of that country—his lack of a proper knowledge of mundane astrology is evident, as you observe.

A BELATED "EVENING NEWS" FORECAST.

The *Evening News*, February 25th, contained the following forecast:—

"March comes in like a lion. A dangerous cyclone is advancing on the West Coast of Ireland from the Atlantic. Most tempestuous southerly winds, rainy weather, and perhaps some snow later, will prevail over the major portion of the British Isles between to-day and March 1st. March certainly promises to come in like a lion."

The *Evening News'* meteorologist thus forecasts the advent of a cyclone, to be followed by a cold snap, just as it has begun to make its presence felt on the West Coast of Ireland.

ZADKIEL, the *astro-meteorologist*, however, wrote his forecast last June and published it in October, thus:—

"February 25th and 26th, unsettled; 27th, fog or snow; 28th, gusty. Storm periods: 22nd and 28th.

"March comes in like a lion, with stormy and biting weather, much snow in places. Storm periods: 2nd, 8th or 9th, 16th, 22nd and 25th."

The *Evening News'* meteorologist's forecast is a belated one; perhaps he has been studying *Zadkiel's Almanac*?

TO OUR READERS.—Those subscribers who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the 1898 issue of STAR-LORE, are requested to kindly forward them to the editor as soon as convenient, and to do their best to obtain new subscribers.

Those who may have mislaid the editor's private address may send their letters to him under cover to the publishers.