

Ameb culminates on the 24th of January.

The components are $35''.4$ apart, at a position angle of 156° ; and $6'$ away is Sir John Herschel's 3780, a sextuple star.

β , Double, 3.5 and 11, deep yellow and blue.

Nihal is from the collective title of α , β , γ , and δ ,—**Nibal** with Burritt.

Holden says that the companion, nearly $3''$ away, at a position angle of 292° , is suspected to be a planet; and Burnham has discovered other faint companions.

The variable R, 6th to 8.5 magnitudes, is **Hind's Crimson Star**, discovered by Mr. J. R. Hind in 1845,—“like a drop of blood on a black field.” It lies in front of the Hare's head, on the border of Eridanus, but its discoverer announced it as in Orion. Its variability, in a very irregular period of about 438 days, was first recorded by Schmidt in 1855, but accurate observations of maxima and minima are difficult in high latitudes.



the scale of night
Silently with the stars ascended.

Longfellow's *Occultation of Orion*.

Libra, the Balance or Scales,

is the Italian **Libra** and **Blancia**, the French **Balance**, the German **Wage**,—Bayer's **Wag** and Bode's **Waage**,—but the Anglo-Saxons said **Wæge** and **Fund**, and the Anglo-Normans, **Peise**, all meaning the Scales, or a Weight.

The early Greeks did not associate its stars with a Balance, so that many have thought it substituted in comparatively recent times for the **Chelae**, the **Claws of the Scorpion**, that previously had been known as a distinct portion of the double sign; Hyginus characterizing it as *dimidia pars Scorpionis*, and Ptolemy counting eight components in the two divisions of his $\chi\eta\lambda\alpha\iota$,— $\beta\acute{o}\rho\epsilon\iota\omicron\varsigma$ and $\nu\acute{o}\tau\iota\omicron\varsigma$,—with nine $\acute{\alpha}\mu\acute{o}\rho\phi\omega\tau\omicron\iota$. Aratos also knew it under that title, writing of it as a dim sign,— $\phi\acute{\alpha}\epsilon\omega\nu$ $\acute{\epsilon}\pi\iota\delta\nu\acute{\epsilon}\epsilon\varsigma$,—though a great one,— $\mu\epsilon\gamma\acute{\alpha}\lambda\alpha\varsigma$ $\chi\eta\lambda\acute{\alpha}\varsigma$. Eratosthenes included the stars of the Claws with those of our Scorpio, and called the whole $\Sigma\kappa\omicron\rho\pi\iota\omicron\varsigma$, but alluded to the $\chi\eta\lambda\alpha\iota$; as did Hipparchos, although with him the latter also were $\Sigma\upsilon\gamma\acute{o}\nu$, or $\Sigma\upsilon\gamma\acute{o}\varsigma$, these words becoming common for our Libra, and turned by