

solstice, which was formerly here and gave name to the tropic, is now about  $33^{\circ}$  to the westward, near  $\eta$  Geminorum.

The celebrated Halley comet first appeared here in 1531; and in June, 1895, all the planets, except Neptune, were in this quarter of the heavens, an unusual and most interesting occurrence. Argelander catalogues 47 stars in the constellation in addition to Praesaepe; and Heis, 91.

$\alpha$ , Double, 4.4 and 11, white and red.

**Acubens**, from the *Chelae quas Acubenae Chaldaei vocant* of the *Alfonsine Tables*, is not Chaldaean, but from the Arabic **Al Zubanāh**, the Claws, on the southern one of which this star lies, near the head of Hydra. Bayer repeated this in his **Acubene** and **Azubene**, adding Pliny's names for it—**Acetabula**, the Arm Sockets of a crab, and **Cirros**,—properly **Cirrus**,—the Arms themselves, equivalent to Ovid's **Flagella**, which Bayer wrongly translated Scourge; others similarly saying **Branchiae** and **Ungulae**. Bayer also cited the "Barbarians'" **Grivenescos**, unintelligible unless it be their form of *Γραψαῖος*, a Crab. **Sartan** and **Sertan** are from the Arabic word for the whole figure. The star  $\iota$ , marking the other claw, shares in many of these titles.

Some assign **Al Hamarein** to  $\alpha$ ,—an undoubted error, as **Al Hīmārain** was the common Arabian term for the Aselli,  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$ , that the Arabic signifies.

Acubens culminates on the 18th of March. The companion is  $11^{\circ}.4$  distant, at a position angle of  $325^{\circ}.5$ .

$\beta$ , a 4th-magnitude, is **Al Tarf**, the End, *i. e.* of the southern foot on which it lies.

Sunt in signo Cancri duae stellae parvae, aselli appellati.

Pliny's *Historia Naturalis*.

$\gamma$ , 4.6, and  $\delta$ , 4.3, straw color.

**Asellus borealis** and **Asellus australis**, the Northern and the Southern Ass Colt, were the *Ὀνοι*, or Asses, of Ptolemy and the Greeks; the **Aselli**, or **Asini**, of the Latins, distinguished by their position as here given, even to the present day, and now popularly known as the **Donkeys**. The Basel *Latin Almagest* of 1551 says **Asinus** for  $\gamma$  only, but the *Alfonsine Tables* and the *Almagest* of 1515 have **Duo Asini**; and the Arabians similarly knew them as **Al Hīmārain**, the Two Asses. Bailey, in his *Mystic* of 1858, calls them the **Aselline Starlets**.

Manilius is supposed to allude to these outstretched stars as the **Jugulae**, taken indirectly from *Jugum*, a Yoke, which became *Jugulum*, the Collar-