

31"; while the companion itself is a close binary with a period of about 45 years, the distance seldom exceeding 1".

$\nu$  and  $\xi$ , of the 4th magnitude, with the small  $\delta$ , were the Chinese **Chung Shan**, the Middle Mountain. Some recent investigations place here the Apex of the Sun's Way.

$\omega$ , a 4th-magnitude double, by some early transcriber's error, is now given as **Cujam**, from Caïam, the accusative of Caia, the word used by Horace for the Club of Hercules, which is marked by this star. **Gaiam**, **Guïam**, and **Guyam**, frequently seen, are erroneous. In Burritt's *Atlas* the star is wrongly placed within the uplifted right arm.

The **Club of Hercules** is supposed to have been a separate constellation with Pliny.



### **Horologium Oscillatorium, the Pendulum Clock,**

lies to the eastward of Achernar,— $\alpha$  of Eridanus,—and north of Hydrus.

In France it is **Orloge**; in Italy, **Orologio**; and in Germany, **Pendeluhr**.

Although shown on the maps, it is rarely mentioned; and the only object in it known to be of special interest is a variable star, detected by Harvard observers in Peru, changing in light from 9.7 to 12.7 in a period of about three hundred days. Gould catalogues 68 stars down to the 7th magnitude;  $\alpha$ , the *lucida*, being 3.8.

Whitall had on his planisphere a figure, which he entitled **Horoscope**, between "Chemica Fornar" and "Caela Sculptoris," but no Horologium. His title is undoubtedly for our constellation, as it occupies Horologium's place.



Close by the *Serpent* spreads; whose winding Spires  
With order'd stars resemble scaly Fires.

Creech's *Manilius*.

### **Hydra, the Water-snake,**

is the French **Hydre**, the German **Grosse Wasserschlange**, and the Italian **Idra**, and may be classed among the Argonautic constellations, as it was said to represent the **Dragon of Aetes**.