and governed the lumbar region of the human body. Its modern reign has been over Alsace, Antwerp, Austria, Aethiopia, Frankfürt, India, Lisbon, Livonia, Portugal, Savoy, Vienna, and our Charleston; but in classical times over Italy and, naturally enough from its history, especially over Rome, with Vulcan as its guardian. It thus became **Vulcani Sidus.**

To it was assigned control of the gentle west wind, Zephyrus,[1] personified as the son of Astraeus and Aurora.

Pious heathen called it **Pluto's Chariot,** in which that god carried off Proserpina, the adjacent Virgo; but early Christians said that it represented the **Apostle Philip;** and Caesius identified it with the **Balances** of the *Book of Daniel,* v, 27, in which Belshazzar had been weighed and "found wanting."

Argelander enumerated in it 28 stars down to 5.8 magnitude; and Heis, 53 down to 6.5; but its boundaries often have been confused with those of Scorpio. The central portion of the figure is marked by the trapezoid of stars α, ι, γ, and β.

The sun is in the constellation from the 29th of October to the 21st of November.

α^2 and α^1, Widely double, 3 and 6, pale yellow and light gray.

In Greek astronomy these were Χηλή νότιος, the Southern Claw, from the name of the whole division now our Southern Scale.

Our **Zubenelgenubi** is from **Al Zubān al Janūbiyyah,** the exact Arabian equivalent of Ptolemy's term; but **Zubenelgubi** and **Janib** are both wrong, and **Zubeneschamali** is worse, for it plainly belongs to β.

Chilmead's **Mizan Aliemin** is from an Arabian title for the constellation; yet that people also knew it as **Al Kiffah al Janūbiyyah,** the Southern Tray of the Scale, from which came the Arabo-Latin **Kiffa australis** of modern lists; and as **Al Wazn al Janūbiyyah,** the Southern Weight, distorted by Riccioli into **Vazneganubi.** The **Lanx meridionalis** of two centuries ago is synonymous with the first of these Arabian designations.

The *alphas* and β constituted the 14th *manzil,* **Al Zubānā,** although Al Bīrūnī said that this title should be **Zaban,** "to push," as though one of the stars were pushing away the other (!); while α marked the *nakshatra* **Viçakha,** Branched, under the rule of Indragni, the dual tutelar divinity Indra and Agni. This lunar station was figured as a decorated **Gateway,** and in later Hindu astronomy its borders were extended to include γ and ι, thus

1 This was the same as Favonius,— Homer's Ζέφυρος, at first regarded as strongly blowing, but later as the genial Ζωηφόρος, the Life-bearing.

completing the resemblance to the object for which the asterism was named; *ι* was the junction star with Anuradha.

These same stars marked the *sieu* **Ti,** Bottom, anciently **Dsi,** and still earlier **I shi,** some Chinese authorities adding *δ*, *μ*, and *ν*.

The two *alphas* were the determinants of the 21st Babylonian ecliptic constellation **Nūru-sha-Shūtu,** the Southern Light; and some have included *β* and *γ* with them in the Euphratean **Entena-mas-luv,** the Star of the Tail-tip, as though they marked that part of the enormous, but undetermined, ancient **Hydra** of Chaldaeà, the very early **Afr** of Arabia. Oppert considers them the **Idχu** that others apply to the star Altair.

They lie 10° southwest of *β*, close to the ecliptic and almost covered by the sun on the 5th of November, the components 230″ apart; but Bayer's map and text illustrate and mention only one star. They culminate on the 17th of June.

β, 2.7, pale emerald.

Zubeneschamali, sometimes **Zuben el Chamali,** is from **Al Zubān al Shamāliyyah,** the equivalent of Χηλή *βόρειος*, the Northern Claw; **Kiffa borealis** is Arabic and Latin for the Northern Scale Tray; Bayer's **Lanx septentrionalis** signifies the same thing; and **Vazneschemali,** the Southern Weight, was used by Riccioli. So that *β*, as well as *α*, seems always to have borne the name of that half of the constellation figure which it marked.

Miss Bouvier's and Burritt's **Zubenelgemabi** is entirely wrong, both in orthography and in application to this star.

Epping says that it marked the 22d ecliptic constellation of Babylonia, **Nuru sha-Iltānu,** the Northern Light; while Jensen assigns it and *α* to that country's lunar asterism **Zibanitu,** connecting this word with the similar Arabic Zubānā; but this is not generally accepted. Brown considers that, under the name of the **Sugi Stars,** they were associated with **Bilat,** the Lady, or **Beltis;** and that the Persians knew them as **Çrob,** the Horned; the Sogdians, as **Ghanwand,** the Claw-possessing, equivalent to the Khorasmian **Ighnuna,** and the Coptic **Pritithi,** the Two Claws,—all these being lunar stations. According to Ptolemy, an observation was made at Babylon on the 17th of January, 272 B. C.,—in the 476th year of Nabonassar, or Nabu-nazir,—of the very near approach of Mars[1] to *β*, one of the earliest records that we have of this planet. Hind, however, mentioned this approach as in connection with *β* of Scorpio.

1 The Greeks knew it as Ἄρης and as Πυρόεις, the Fiery One; the Latins, as **Hercules,** in addition to its present title.