

occasionally transformed into **Saint Marguerite**. It marks the loop, or knot, of the ribbon along which are fastened the buds, flowers, or leaves of the wreath shown in early drawings with two long out-streaming ends.

The spectrum is of Secchi's Solar type; and the star is receding from our system at the rate of about twenty miles a second. It has a distant 8th-magnitude companion, and culminates on the 28th of June.

It marks the radiant point of the **Coronids**, the meteor shower visible from the 12th of April to the 30th of June.

$\beta$ , a 4th-magnitude northwest from Alphecca, is **Nusakan** in the 2d edition of the *Palermo Catalogue*, derived from the Masâkin of the constellation.

$\gamma$ ,  $\eta$ , and  $\sigma$ , although unnamed, are all interesting binary stars.



Till, rising on my wings, I was preferr'd  
To be the chaste Minerva's virgin bird.

Joseph Addison's translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

## Corvus

was the **Raven** in Chaucer's time, and the Germans still have **Rabe**; but the French follow the Latins in **Corbean**, as the Italians do in **Corvo**, and we in the **Crow**.

Although now traversed by the 20th degree of south declination, 2000 years ago it lay equally on each side of the celestial equator. It contains only 15 naked-eye stars according to Argelander,—26 according to Heis,—yet was a noted constellation with the Greeks and Romans, and always more or less associated with the Cup and with the Hydra, on whose body it rests. Ovid said of this combination in his *Fasti*:

Continuata loco tria sidera, Corvus et Anguis,  
Et medius Crater inter utrumque jacet;

but while always so drawn, the three constellations for a long time have been catalogued separately.

The Greeks called it *Kόραξ*, Raven; and the Romans, Corvus. Manilius designating it as **Phoebo Sacer Ales**, and Ovid as **Phoebeius Ales**, mythology having made the bird sacred to Phoebus Apollo in connection with his prophetic functions, and because he assumed its shape during the conflict of the gods with the giants.