

The period of orbital revolution is about eighty-one years; the position angle in 1897, 208° ; and they now are $21''.5$ apart,—about 2700 millions of miles,—and yet connected! This distance is increasing.

Their proper motion, $3''.7$ annually, or about 446 millions of miles across the line of vision, will carry them to the Southern Cross in 12,000 years.

The spectrum of α^2 , the larger star, is midway between the Sirian and Solar.

β , 1.2.

Burritt located this near the right fore leg, calling it **Agena**, but gave no meaning or derivation of the word, and I have not found it elsewhere; Bayer placed it on the left hind quarter.

Hadar and **Wazn**, Ground and Weight, seem to have been applied without much definiteness to α and β of this constellation, and to stars in **Argo**, **Columba**, and **Canis Major**, probably on account of their proximity to the horizon; the meridian altitude of β , 1000 years ago at Cairo, in 30° of north latitude, being only 4° . Hyde, however, said that α and γ were the stars referred to by these Arabic titles.

The Chinese call β **Mah Fuh**, the Horse's Belly.

This and α are the **Southern Pointers**, *i. e.* towards the Southern Cross, often regarded as the Cynosure of the southern hemisphere.

The Bushmen of South Africa knew them as **Two Men that once were Lions**; and the Australian natives as **Two Brothers** who speared Tchingal to death, the eastern stars of the Cross being the spear points that pierced his body.

γ , 2.4, that Bayer placed on the right fore foot, with τ , 4.4, were the early Chinese **Koo Low**, an Arsenal Tower; and δ , 2.8, was the later **Ma Wei**, the Horse's Tail.

The early ϵ , ζ , ν , and ξ^2 , the four *Dictis a nautis Croziers* of Halley's catalogue, are the Southern Cross; ζ probably being Al Tizini's **Al Nā'ir al Baṭn al Kentaurus**, the Bright One in the Centaur's Belly.

θ , Double and variable, 2.2 to 2.7 and 14.3, red and bluish,

appears in the *Century Cyclopedia* as **Chort**, an error from the editor's writing *Centauri* for *Leonis*, this letter and title really belonging to θ Leonis, on the hind quarter of the Lion near the Ribs, that the Arabic **H-ārātan** signifies. θ in this constellation marks the left shoulder of the figure.

Harvard observers at Arequipa have reported an 8th-magnitude com-