

of Canopus. Still another derivation of the name is from **Al Ghamūs**, the Puppy; but this probably was a later idea from the Romans.

Also borrowing from them, the Arabians called it **Al Kalb al Asghar**, the Lesser Dog,—Chilmead's **Alcheleb Alasgar**, Riccioli's **Kelbelasguar**,—and **Al Kalb al Mutakaddim**, the Preceding Dog.

In Canis Minor lay a part of **Al Dhirā' al Asad al Maḥbūdah**, the Contracted Fore Arm, or Paw, of the early Lion; the other, the Extended Paw, running up into the heads of Gemini.

Like its greater neighbor, Procyon foretold wealth and renown, and in all astrology has been much regarded. Leonard Digges<sup>1</sup> wrote in his *Prognostication Everlasting of Right Good Effect*, an almanac for 1553,—

Who learned in matters astronomical, noteth not the great effects at the rising of the starre called the Litel Dogge.

Caesius made it the **Dog of Tobias**, in the *Apocrypha*, that Novidius had claimed for Canis Major; but Julius Schiller imagined it the **Paschal Lamb**.

Who traced out the original outlines of Canis Minor, and what these outlines were, is uncertain, for the constellation with Ptolemy contained but two recorded stars, and no ἀμόρφωτοι; and even now Argelander's map shows only 15, although Heis has 37, and Gould 51.

Canis Minor lies to the southeast from the feet of Gemini, its western border over the edge of the Milky Way, and is separated by Monoceros from Canis Major and Argo.

α, Binary, 0.4, and 13, yellowish white and yellow.

**Procyon**, varied by **Procion** and **Prochion**,—Προκύων in the original,—has been the name for this from the earliest Greek records, distinctly mentioned by Aratos and Ptolemy, and so known by all the Latins, with the equivalent **Antecanis**.

Ulug Beg designated it as **Al Shi'rā al Shāmiyyah**, shortened to **Al Shāmiyyah**; Chrysococca transcribing this into his Low Greek Σταῖρ Σιαμῆ, and Riccioli into **Siair Siami**; all of these agreeing with its occasional English title the **Northern Sirius**. The *Alfonsine Tables* of 1521 quote it as **Aschere, Aschemie et Algomeysa**; those of 1545, as **prochion & Algomeyla**.

It thus has many of its constellation's names; in fact, being the *magna pars* of it, probably itself bore them before the constellation was formed.

<sup>1</sup> It was this Digges who, nearly fifty years before Galileo, wrote of the telescope as though it were an instrument with which he was familiar,—perhaps from Roger Bacon's writings of 350 years before him.

Jacob Bryant insisted that its title came to Greece from the Egyptian **Pur Cahen**.

Euphratean scholars identify it with the **Kakkab Paldara, Pallika, or Palura** of the cylinders, the Star of the Crossing of the Water-dog, a title evidently given with some reference to the River of Heaven, the adjacent Milky Way; and Hommel says that it was the **Kak-shisha** which the majority of scholars apply to Sirius.

Dupuis said that in Hindu fables it was **Singe Hanuant**; and Edkins that it, or Sirius, was the Persian **Vanand**.

Reeves' Chinese list gives it as **Nan Ho**, the Southern River, in which  $\beta$  and  $\eta$  were included.

With the natives of the Hervey Islands it was their goddess **Vena**.

In astrology, like its constellation, it portended wealth, fame, and good fortune. Procyon culminates on the 24th of February.

Elkin determined its parallax as  $0''.341$ , making its distance from our system about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  light years; and, according to Vogel, it is approaching us at a speed of nearly six miles a second. Gould thinks it slightly variable.

Its spectrum is on the border between Solar and Sirian.

It is attended by several minute companions that have long been known; but in November, 1896, Schaeberle of the Lick Observatory discovered a 13th-magnitude yellowish companion, about  $4''.6$  away, at a position angle of  $318^\circ.8$ , that may be the one predicted by Bessel in 1844 as explaining its peculiar motion,—a motion resembling that of Sirius, which astronomers had found to be moving in an oval orbit entirely unexplained until the discovery of its companion by Alvan G. Clark in 1862. Barnard, at the Yerkes Observatory in 1898, makes the close companion of Procyon  $4''.83$  away, at a position angle of  $326^\circ$ .

The period of revolution of this most magnificent system is about forty years, in an orbit slightly greater than that of Uranus, the combined mass being about six times that of our sun and earth, and the mass of the companion equaling that of our sun. Its light is three times greater.

$\beta$ , 3.5, white.

**Gomeisa** is from the Ghumaisā' of the constellation, changed in the *Alfonsine Tables* to **Algomeyla**, and by Burritt to **Gomelza**.

Occasionally it has been **Al Gamus**, from another of the Arabians' titles for the whole; and **Al Murzim**, identical with the name of  $\beta$  Canis Majoris, and for a similar reason,—as if announcing the rising of the brightest star