

servations from the old watch-tower of Eudoxos at Cnidos in the Asian Caria,—possibly the earliest attempt at geodetic measurement, as this observatory was the first one mentioned in classical days. Manilius poetically followed in his path by using it, with the Bear, to prove the sphericity of the earth.

The confusion in the titles of Canopus and Coma Berenices is noted under that constellation.

Lying $52^{\circ} 38'$ south of the celestial equator, about 35° below Sirius, this star is invisible to observers north of the 37th parallel; but there it is just above the horizon at nine o'clock in the evening of the 6th of February, and conspicuous from Georgia, Florida, and our Gulf States. Sirius follows it in culmination by about twenty minutes.

Canopus is so brilliant that observers in Chile, in 1861, considered it brighter than Sirius; and Tennyson, in his *Dream of Fair Women*, made it a simile of intensest light,—in Cleopatra's words,—

lamps which outburn'd Canopus.

Yet Elkin obtained a parallax of only $0''.03$,—practically *nil*,—indicating a distance from our system at least twelve times that of its apparently greater neighbor. Its spectrum is similar to that of the latter.

See discovered, in 1897, a 15th-magnitude bluish companion $30''$ away, at a position angle of 160° .

β , 2.

Miaplacidus is thus written in Burritt's *Geography* of 1856, but is **Maia-placidus** in his *Atlas* of 1835, the meaning and derivation of which I cannot learn, unless it be in part, as Higgins asserts in his brief work on star-names, from Miyah, the plural of the Arabic Mā, Water. The original, however, is better transcribed Mi'ah.

β lies in the Carina subdivision and is the α of Halley's Robur Carolinum, 25° east of Canopus, and 61° south of Alphard of the Hydra; but Baily said that he could find no star corresponding to this as Bayer laid it down on his map of Argo.

γ , Triple, 2, 6, and 8, white, greenish white, and purple,

was the Arabs' **Al Suhail al Muhlif**, the Suhail of the Oath, as with ζ and λ it formed one of the several groups **Al Muhlifain**, **Muhtalifain**, or **Muhni-thain**, by which reference was made to the statement that at their rising some