

The variations in its light are as remarkable in their irregularity as in their degree. The first recorded observation, said to have been by Halley in 1677, although it is not in his *Southern Catalogue*, made  $\eta$  a 4th-magnitude, but since that it has often varied either way, at longer or shorter intervals, from absolute invisibility by the naked eye to a brilliancy almost the equal of Sirius. Sir John Herschel saw it thus in December, 1837, as others did in 1843; but, gradually declining since then, it touched its lowest recorded magnitude of 7.6 in March, 1886. It is now, however, on the increase; for on the 13th of May, 1896, it was 5.1, or about a half-magnitude higher than its maximum of the preceding year.

The nebula, N. G. C. 3372, surrounding this star has been called the **Keyhole** from its characteristic features; but the most brilliant portion, as drawn by Sir John Herschel, seems to have disappeared at some time between 1837 and 1871. That great observer saw 1203 stars scattered over its surface.

Near  $\eta$  is a vacant space of irregular shape that Abbott has called the **Crooked Billet**; and there are two remarkable coarse clusters in its immediate vicinity.

$\iota$ , 2.9, pale yellow.

This was the Latins' **Scutulum**, or Little Shield, the Arabians' **Turaia**, probably referring to the ornamental Aplustre at the stern of the Ship in the subdivision Carina; but Hyde, quoting it as **Turyeish** from Tizini, said that the original was *verbum ignotum*, and suggested that some one else should make a guess at it and its meaning. Smyth wrote of it as "corresponding to the 'Ἀσπιδίσκη of Ptolemy"; but the latter described it as being in the 'Ἀκροστόλιον, Gunwale, and located  $\kappa$ ,  $\xi$ ,  $\omicron$ ,  $\pi$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $\sigma$ , and  $\tau$  in the 'Ἀσπιδίσκη, or Aplustre, where they are shown to-day. The *Century Atlas* follows Smyth in calling  $\iota$  **Aspidiske**. It is visible from the latitude of New York City.

$\kappa$ , 3.9, is **Markab** and **Markeb**, probably from the *Alfonsine Tables* of 1521, where this last word is found plainly applied to it as a proper name. This also is visible from the latitude of New York, culminating on the 25th of March.

$\lambda$ , 2.5, in Vela is Al Sufi's **Al Suhail al Wazn**, Suhail of the Weight; and, with  $\gamma$  and  $\zeta$ , one of the Muḥlifaîn.

$\xi$ , 3.4, has been called **Asmidiske** by an incorrect transliteration of the 'Ἀσπιδίσκη where it is located with the star  $\iota$ .

$\psi$ , 3.7, in Vela is given by Reeves as **Tseen Ke**, Heaven's Record; a star