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 a^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.

Ḥaḍar 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-

panion 3″ away, at a position angle of 180°. See does not find this at the Lowell observatories; but in 1897 discovered the companion noted in the heading, about 70″ away, at a position angle of 128°.6.

In China κ was **Ke Kwan,** a Cavalry Officer; μ, ν, and ϕ were **Wei,** the Balance; *i*, *g*, *k*, ψ, and A, with another adjacent, were **Choo,** a Pillar; and some small stars near the foot of the Cross were **Hae Shan,** the Sea and the Mountain.

The letter ω was applied by Bayer to a hazy 4th-magnitude star in *imo dorso* of the human part of the figure, which Halley, in 1677, inserted in his catalogue as a nebula; but at Feldhausen, on the Cape of Good Hope, the better telescope of Sir John Herschel showed it as "a noble globular cluster, beyond all comparison the richest and largest in the heavens." This appears absolutely round, 20′ in diameter, and contains many thousands of 13th- to 15th-magnitude stars; while its uniform structure indicates that it may be among the youngest of its class. It is the N. G. C. 5139, and has been splendidly photographed by Bailey at Arequipa, showing 6336 stars, among which he finds 122 variables.

It comes to the meridian on the 1st of June, about 36° south of Spica, but is invisible from north of the 34th parallel.

★

Kepheus is like one who stretches forth both hands.
Brown's *Aratos.*

Cepheus,

the French **Céphée** and the Italian **Cefeo,** is shown in royal robes, with one foot on the pole, the other on the solstitial colure, his head marked by a triangle, the 4th-magnitudes δ, ε, and ζ; γ and κ, near the knees, forming an equilateral triangle with Polaris; and almost universally has been drawn as Aratos described in the motto. Some see in his stars a large **K** open towards Cassiopeia,—ε, ζ, ξ, β, and κ, with ν and γ. Achilles Tatios, probably of our 5th century, claimed that the constellation was known in Chaldaea twenty-three centuries before our era, when the earthly King was recognized in that country's myths as the son of Belos, of whom Pliny wrote, *Inventor hic fuit sideralis scientiae.*