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° 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 **Maiaplacidus** 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 *a* 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 Muḥlif**, the Suhail of the Oath, as with ζ and λ it formed one of the several groups **Al Muḥlifaïn, Muḥtalifaïn,** or **Muḥnithaïn**, by which reference was made to the statement that at their rising some

mistook them for Suhail, and the consequent arguments were the occasion of much profanity among the disputatious Arabs. As, however, it would seem impossible that Canopus could be mistaken for any neighboring star, this derivation is as absurd as the proper location of the Muḫlifaïn was doubtful, for they have been assigned not only to the foregoing, but also to stars in Canis Major, Centaurus, and Columba.

γ lies in the Vela subdivision, and is visible from all points south of 42° of north latitude. Like β, it seems to have been incorrectly laid down on the *Uranometria*, for Baily wrote that he could not find Bayer's γ in the sky.

This is the only conspicuous star that shows the Wolf-Rayet type of a continuous spectrum crossed with bright lines; and its superb beauty is the admiration of the spectroscopic observer. Eddie calls it the **Spectral Gem** of the southern skies.

δ, 2.2, and ω, with stars in Canis Major, were the Chinese **Koo She**, the Bow and Arrow.

ζ, 2.5, at the southeastern extremity of the Egyptian **X**, is the **Suhail Ḥaḍar** of Al Sufi, and the **Naos**, or Ship, of Burritt's *Atlas;* while, with γ and λ, it was one of the Muhlifaïn.

Its south declination in 1880 was 39° 40′, and so it is plainly visible from the latitude of the State of Maine, coming to the meridian on the 3d of March.

η, Irregularly variable, > 1 to 7.4, reddish,

lies in the Carina subdivision, but is invisible from north of the 30th parallel.

This is one of the most noted objects in the heavens, perhaps even so in almost prehistoric times, for Babylonian inscriptions seem to refer to a star, noticeable from occasional faintness in its light, that Jensen thinks was η. And he claims it as one of the temple stars associated with Ea, or Ia, of Eridhu,[1] the Lord of the Waves, otherwise known as Oannes,[2] the mysterious human fish and greatest god of the kingdom.

In China η was **Tseen She**, Heaven's Altars.

1 Eridhu, or Eri-duga, the Holy City, Nunki, or Nunpe, one of the oldest cities in the world, even in ancient Babylonia, was that kingdom's flourishing port on the Persian Gulf, but, by the encroachments of the delta, its site is now one hundred miles inland. In its vicinity the Babylonians located their sacred Tree of Life.

2 Berōssōs described Oannes as the teacher of early man in all knowledge; and in mythology he was even the creator of man and the father of Tammuz and Ishtar, themselves associated with other stars and sky figures. Jensen thinks Oannes connected with the stars of Capricorn; Lockyer finds his counterpart in the god Chnemu of Southern Egypt; and some have regarded him as the prototype of Noah.