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THE TIMES
Port Limon, Costa Rica (G. A.)

New Star in
the milk way

Titles and expensive
honor in England

A new red star has appeared among the myriad luminaries of the Milky Way near the boundary line between the constellations Lacerta and Cepheus. It is so large that an expert observer can see it with the aid of opera glasses, yet it is so remote that its distance from us is almost incalculable.

Its discoverer is the Rev. T. H. Espin of Towlaw, Durham, a well known astronomer. F. W. Dyson, the Astronomer Royal, attempting to define the distance of the new star from the earth says: "It is at least millions of times as far from the earth as the sun, and the latter is 32,000,000 miles away."

"Mr. Espin discovered the star at 5 P. M. few days ago. He telegraphed at once to us and we confirmed the discovery and photographed the star the same night."

"Mr. Espin could not have made the discovery accidentally. He must have been studying that section of the heavens for some special purpose, perhaps looking for red stars and comparing the section with a map. Only in this way can a new star of this magnitude be distinguished from its known neighbors."

"We cannot say at present whether the star made its first appearance on Friday night. Astronomers will now examine closely all recent photographs of that section of the heavens. It is situated in right ascension, 22 hours 32 minutes 10 seconds and north declination 52 degrees 15 minutes 26 seconds."

"The star will be kept under observation because we wish to know how quickly it grows brighter or how soon it flares away. Gradually we are accumulating facts of this kind regarding these temporary stars, some dozen or twenty of which have been observed from time to time. We shall also make spectrum analyses of its constituent gases."

"The appearance of the new star may, it is thought, be due to the passing of old and faint star through diffused gases, the friction resulting in the sudden brightness which has made it visible to the earth."

The birth of this star must in any case have taken place long before that of any one now living. If it is only ten millions of times as far from the earth as the sun is, and it may be much further, the light from it that we now see must have been travelling through space for more than 152 years. It is possible therefore that the star whose light we can now see may have ceased to exist at any time within that period."

The New Year's honors, though contrary to expectations they included no peerages, will cost their recipients an aggregate sum of about \$60,000. At the first place all letters patent conferring the right to armorial bearings issued by the Herald's College have to bear a \$50 stamp.

The grant of letters patent to the dignity of a baronetcy costs in addition \$500, payable to the Inland Revenue. For a privy councillorship or a knighthood the fee claimed by the Treasury is \$150. To these amounts must

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be added stamp duty and the charges of the Herald's College for the issue of the letters patent.

For designing a coat of arms and granting letters patent for its use the Herald's College charges \$ 337.50. Assuming that the eighty-eight recipients, home, colonial and indian, all decide to take out letters patent to the right to armorial bearings the total cost of the New Year's honors will be \$50,450.

The omission of peerages from the latest list of honors makes a considerable difference to the revenue, for a duke has to pay \$ 1,750 for the letters patent of his title, a marquis \$ 1,500, an earl \$ 1,250, a viscount \$ 1,000 and a baronet \$ 750.

A colored man great comedian

I
Bert Williams

When I go to the theatre, which is not often, I generally go to hear the colored comedian, Bert Williams. I go to hear him, however, as often as I have opportunity and I am seldom in the same city with him that I do not find myself, if I happen to have an hour of leisure, drifting in the direction of the theatre in which he is playing.

If I were a dramatic critic I suppose I might give some sound logical reasons for liking Bert Williams's style and methods. But I am not a critic, and vandevilles, as a rule, strike me as tiresome. There is so much that seems to me strained and artificial and lacking in flavor of ordinary wholesome human nature. But Bert Williams's humor strikes me as the real thing. There is nothing secondhand or second-rate about it. His fun seems to flow spontaneously and without effort, as if it came from some deep natural source in the man himself. Besides, there is a sound and flavor about Williams's humor which indicates that it is the natural expression of a thoughtful and observing mind.

I have noticed him standing about in a barber shop or among a crowd of ordinary colored people, the quietest man in the whole gathering. All the time, however, he was studying and observing, enjoying the characters that he saw around him and getting material for some of those quaint songs and stories in which he reproduces the natural humor and philosophy of the Negro people.

As I have said, if I were a dramatic critic I might give some sound reasons for liking Bert Williams, but I suppose the best reason I can give for liking his quaint songs and humorous sayings is that he puts into this form some of the quality and philosophy of the Negro race. In fact, it seems to me that Bert Williams has done for one side of the Negro life and character just what the old plantation Negroes did for another—given expression and put into a form which everyone can understand and ap-

preciate—something of the inner life and peculiar genius, if I may say so, of the Negro.

There is occasionally, as there is, I suppose, in all real humor, a touch of real pathos, as for instance in his quaint little song in which he explains "Why Adam Timmed":

"Adam never had no Mammy
To take him on her knee,
An' tell him what was right, and show him
Things he'd ought to see,
I know, down in my heart,
He'd 'a' let dat apple be.
But Adam never had no dear old Mammy."

"Adam never had no childood,
Playing 'round de cainin do,
An' tell him what was right, and show him
Things he'd ought to see,
He started in a great big grown-up man,
An' what is mo—
He never had no right kind ob a wife."

Bert Williams was born at New Providence, Nassau, in the British Bahama Islands, and is now thirty-five years of age. His grandfather was a white man, the Danish and Spanish Consul for the Bahama Islands, who owned a number of small ships, made considerable money during the Civil War, which he lost later in investments in the United States. When he was two years old, Frederick Williams, Mr. Williams's father, came to New York. Here he learned the trade of paper-maché maker, and this brought him into connection with the New York theatres. Tus Bert Williams got his first acquaintance with the theatre when he was a boy.

From New York his father moved to Riverside, California, and Bert Williams, later graduating at the Riverside High School, went to San Francisco, with the idea of preparing there for college. His purpose was to be a civil engineer. He was for a time bell boy at the Hollenbeck Hotel in Los Angeles and went to school at night.

(To be continued)

Curbing the Trust

The Attitude of the Government
of Jamaica Toward
the U. F. Co.

Wharf Facilities

In a message to the Council His Excellency the Governor explained the reasons which led him to refuse the application of the United Fruit Company, "to allow the Director of the Railway to run a siding from the line through the Kingston General Commissioners' land to premises which have been acquired by the United Fruit Co., so that they might be able to build a wharf there and transfer to it all the business done by them at the same time, to largely increase their exporting and importing transactions."

The reason for the refusal is "that it was not found possible to overcome the obstacles to the extension of the Government Railway along the foreshore, so as to enable all wharf owners to ship fruit carried by the railway over their wharves, and to obtain corresponding import facilities" it would not be "an equitable policy to give such special facilities only to the owners of wharves situated at the west of the Railway."

His Excellency recognises that the development of trade should not be hampered by an inability on the part of so important an enterprise as the U. F. Co., to obtain suitable wharf accommodation and this being so it is imperative that the Government should immediately take steps to give them "reasonable facilities at its own wharves."

For this purpose it is proposed to pull down and rebuild Railway Pier No 3 so as to give full accommodation for the berthing of steamers on each side of the new pier and large covered accommodation for the handling of fruit. The Railway Siding will pass through the site of the old Custom House and the present Harbour Master's Office. The old warehouses adjoining the Custom premises will be restored. It is expected that certain shipping Companies will be in a position to do sufficient business to justify the provision of a warehouse for their exclusive use.

The cost of the new works is estimated at £18,000.

Kaiser Getting Worse?

Berlin—It is reported in Court circles that the Emperor's physicians may consider it advisable for him to go to Wiesbaden earlier than he intended in order to hasten his recovery. The Kaiser may even leave before the end of the week.

American Salon

Paris.—The first Salon of American artists in Paris will be opened by American Ambassador Bacon and M. Dujardin-Beaumais, Under Secretary of Fine Arts, on Thursday. One hundred and fifty works will be exhibited, by twenty six painters, sculptors and engravers, the selections having been made by the directing committee from the best of the past year. It is planned to make the salon an annual fair with the idea of giving American art a distinctive place in France.

Current News.

On Sunday morning last a man named Plummer went for a bath in Siquirres river and while bathing seemed to have seized with cramp. Mr. Drysdale who resides in the neighbourhood saw the man lying on his back in shallow water motionless. He at once took him out and rolled him on the ground, while a doctor was sent for but before medical aid was got the man expired. Plummer was a constant worker on the famous Isla de los Chanchos farm and was in good health previous to his death. He was buried in the afternoon.

The passenger train was quite filled yesterday morning. There was an unusual rush for the lines. The eager crowd that gathered in the waiting room to purchase tickets became so boisterous that a policeman had to be sent for. The scene could have been avoided if the ticket seller was at his post earlier. At 9.30 the room was packed with people waiting to purchase tickets; but it was not until 9.45 when he turned up. The anxious crowd seeing the

time and fearing the loss of their passage on the train became noisy. We believe if the ticket seller were to be earlier at his post such scenes would be avoided. In consequence of this delay the train did not leave the station till 10.17.

Messrs. Peña and Everts has been appointed by the court as valuers for the materials that was found at Jamaica Town recently, and which was stolen from the Northern Railroad Company.

The services at St. Marks on Sunday night last was a success from a numerical point of view, the edifice was filled both morning and night Mr. Binns, catechist, conducted the service.

It was rumored around the city yesterday that some of the St. Kitts men that were employed by the U. F. Co. are leaving here today for Colon and to be sent from there to their country by United Fruit Company. Our representative made enquiry at the office of this company and he was politely told that such a report is not correct, that is to say the company has nothing to do with their leaving the republic and is not defraying their expenses back.

The launch *Vanguardia* will sail for Bluefields on Friday, 3rd March, taking freight and passengers.

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The President interviewed
BY THE
Consul Agent in Limon

We are informed by very reliable authority that the Consul Agent Mr. Harry De Pass during his vacation in Sao Jose had an interview with the President. This interview was by the invitation of the President. Mr. De Pass was introduced by the Consul Mr. Nutter Cox. The interview lasted 2 hours. During the important conversation, the President expressed himself as highly pleased in the manner with which Mr. De Pass handles the affairs of his Government when the vice-Consul is absent. The President also assured Mr. De Pass that he is willing and will do all that lies in his power to assist the West Indians in Costa Rica. He also said that Mr. De Pass must not hesitate to inform him of any way or means he thinks feasible to assist the West Indians; he must always keep him posted.

Mr. De Pass thanked the President and said it was always an honor to him to do all he can for His Majesty's subject, being himself and Imperialist, and would always with promptitude recommend any measure for the betterment of the labouring classes.

Lagniappe

On his visit to America Father Vaughan of London (called by Chesterton "the Mayfair priest who makes the comfortable classes feel uncomfortable"), was asked: "Would you give votes to women?" "I would make no difficulty about giving votes to women," he answered. "But you understand," he added with twinkling eye, "once you give votes to women the suffragettes would be wanting them also!"—Success Magazine.

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The pope is ill Alarm

Rome.—Pope Pius X is ill with influenza. His temperature is considerably above normal, although his physicians state that his condition is not serious. Because of his age, reports of the Pope's sickness are causing considerable alarm and anxiety.

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