

The Little Bear.  
Prof. Proctor, in St. Nicholas, tells us that the Little Bear is a small but most interesting constellation. I do not think that the Little Bear, like the larger one, was so named because of any imagined resemblance to a bear. The original constellation of the Great Bear was much older than the Little Bear, and so many different nations agreed in calling the group to a bear, that there must have been a real resemblance to that animal in the constellation as figure. Later, when the stars came to be arranged by astronomers who had never seen bears, they supposed the three bright stars forming the handle of the Dipper to represent the tail of the bear, though the bear is not a long tailed animal. They thus set three stars for the bear's tail, and the quadrangle of stars forming the Dipper for the bear's body. It was not formed by fanciful folk in the childhood of the world, but by astronomers. Yet it must not be imagined that the constellation is a modern one. It not only belongs to old Ptolemy's list, but is mentioned by Aratus, who borrowed his astronomy from Eudoxus, who "flourished" (as the school-books call it) three hundred and sixty years before the Christian era. It is said that Thales formed the constellation, in which case it must have reached the respectable age of about twenty-five hundred years.

But if the Little Bear is not a very fine animal, it is a most useful constellation. From the time when the Phoenicians were as celebrated merchant seamen as the Venetians afterwards became, and as the English speaking nation now are, this star group has become the cynosure of every sailor's regard. In fact, the word "cynosure" was originally a name given either to the whole of this constellation or to a part of it. Cynosure has become quite a poetical expression in our time, but it means literally "the dog's tail."  
Admiral Smyth gives some particulars about the two stars in the Little Bear called "the guardians of the pole." "Records tells us," he says, "in the hundred years ago, that navigators used two points in Ursa— which many do call the Shafte, and others do name the Guardians, after the Spanish tongue, Richard Eden, in 1584, published his 'Arte of Navigation,' and therein gave rules for the 'stars,' among which are special directions for the two called the guardians in the mouth of the 'home,' as the figure was called." (The pole star would mark the small end of the home.) "How often," says Hervey in his 'Meditations,' "have these stars beamed bright intelligence on the sailor and conducted the keel to its destined haven!"

**Disease Spread by Tailors.**  
The other day a delegation from the Amalgamated Society of Tailors waited upon the British government in the person of Under Secretary Cross. Their object was to lay before him some facts in connection with what was called the "sweating system," one of the deplorable conditions in which garment makers were living on a bed in which patients were suffering. There were a great many instances in which such things had taken place. They considered that if an employer got people to take work home, he should be bound to get the place to which it was taken registered, and hoped Mr. Cross could see his way clear to make it imperative that every house used as a tailor's workshop should be so registered by the employer. A delegate from Manchester gave the results of visits to 1,000 homes where this work was carried on, and stated that the condition of things was something deplorable. In some cases four or five persons were at work in a room nine feet by ten feet. Sometimes people were making these garments in the midst of their domestic arrangements. From the facts that had come under his knowledge, he had no hesitation in saying that the state of things required alteration, and that the people engaged were in a most unhealthy condition. They found somewhere near 1,800 people engaged in this way, and all the surroundings of the place were such as would foster and spread disease. Another delegate said in some instances in London a man and woman would be at work in a small room at the top of a house, in which they lived and slept. The people occupied in this work were so crowded together that the places could not fail to foster and spread disease. While people went to large shops with showy fronts, they did not know that the clothes they purchased were made in close and unhealthy rooms where the body of a child who had died from small-pox lay dead on the table, and two other children were sick with the disease, the man and wife were at work in the same room, and twelve fashionable coats were in the same room. Mr. Cross said he would introduce a bill after Easter to cover the case.

**A Wizard Outwitted.**  
At a hotel in Dover, a gentleman from Baltimore was entertaining a crowd of men who had a rather rural appearance about them, with what is known as tricks in sleight of hand. The crowd watched him with eagerness since silver pieces in the palm of his hand and then an apparent action on his part. Glasses were placed and filled with water as though by spirit in his fastenings, and other feats equally as remarkable were performed. Finally one of the crowd, a man named Potter, with his breeches tucked in his boots, sidled up and asked for the watch of the man of tricks, for the purpose of showing him a trick that was worth two of his own. The article was handed over. He showed it into his trousers between the waistband, and then told the Baltimore gentleman that he could not find it, and he was as good as his word, for up to a late hour yesterday afternoon the watch, a fine gold hunting case, had not been found, although the man was stripped five minutes after the occurrence. Esquire Dickson held the offender by the arm in the sum of \$300, but it certainly was a mystery what became of the watch, and more to the man who was beaten at his own game than anybody else.

**Cruelty.**  
The cruelty of German military officers to their subordinates is a matter of notoriety, but an officer in an artillery regiment has lately gone beyond precedent, and is likely to get into serious trouble, because of his truculent ingenuity. Some of his men were insubordinate, and so he set out by means of a "spurring process," which consisted in jabbing spears persistently and brutally into their legs. Two cannoniers were recently so severely injured by this process that they had to go to the hospital.

**Burned to Death.**  
A special from Conway, Ga., states that the jail at that place was burned and three colored prisoners perished in the flames. The door to the jail was on the second floor, the first story being a solid dungeon which opened from the top by a trap door. Before the fire was discovered it had burned away the steps and cut off all communication with the prisoners. There was no engine in the town, and the fire had its own way. The heat was so intense that it was impossible to approach the building. At length an ax was soon forced through an aperture to the prisoners, and they commenced to cut through the heavy logs that made the dungeon walls. The flames, however, swept downward rapidly, and soon burned through the upper floor and sent a shower of embers and lurid blaze on the wretched men below. In this horrid illumination they could be plainly seen by the crowd outside. Crazed with pain and fear they capered about like mad men, dashing themselves against the walls and screaming in the most fearful manner. Their attempts to cut through the walls, while furious, had no intelligent direction. They lashed about wildly, frequently fighting like lions in the midst of their domestic arrangements. From the facts that had come under his knowledge, he had no hesitation in saying that the state of things required alteration, and that the people engaged were in a most unhealthy condition. They found somewhere near 1,800 people engaged in this way, and all the surroundings of the place were such as would foster and spread disease. Another delegate said in some instances in London a man and woman would be at work in a small room at the top of a house, in which they lived and slept. The people occupied in this work were so crowded together that the places could not fail to foster and spread disease. While people went to large shops with showy fronts, they did not know that the clothes they purchased were made in close and unhealthy rooms where the body of a child who had died from small-pox lay dead on the table, and two other children were sick with the disease, the man and wife were at work in the same room, and twelve fashionable coats were in the same room. Mr. Cross said he would introduce a bill after Easter to cover the case.

**He Cooked It.**  
There is a good story told in South Wales of Mr. Fothergill and one of the few of his world. Mr. Fothergill, when the election was going on, wished to conciliate this man, because he had great influence over the mass of his people. So he sent him a beautiful pineapple from his hot house. Meeting him in the street a few days afterward he said: "I hope, Mr. Jones, you got the pineapple I sent you." "Yes, thank you," replied Mr. Jones, touching his hat. "And I hope you enjoyed it." "Yes," replied Mr. Jones; "it ate very well with a leg of mutton." "With a leg of mutton!" said Mr. Fothergill. "What did you do with it then?" "Why," responded Mr. Jones, "my missus boiled it."

**Death of Ross Winans.**  
Ross Winans, a well-known citizen of Baltimore, died in that city, aged eighty-four years. He was born in Sussex county, N. J. In 1830 he visited Europe for the Baltimore and Ohio railroad company, and investigated the railroad system there. He invented the eight wheel car, the camel-back engine, and many other things. In 1840 the czar of Russia tendered him the railway control in that empire, which he turned over to his sons, who made immense fortunes. At the outbreak of the war he was imprisoned in Fort Mifflin and was held for a year. He was a man of plain education, but an original and vigorous writer. He published one book: "One Religion, Many Creeds," for his own gratification. He is reputed to be worth several million dollars. A single item of property is 113 dwellings, built on improved principles, for workmen. One son, Thomas Winans, living here, is estimated to be worth from twenty to forty millions.

**Burnett's Cocaine.**  
Burnett's Cocaine is the best and cheapest hair dressing in the world.

**Church's Musical Visitor.**  
Church's Musical Visitor is a valuable work for musicians and music lovers.

**Rich and Beautiful.**  
Rich and Beautiful is a book for farmers and gardeners.

**Pond's Extract.**  
Pond's Extract is a remedy for various ailments.

**Medical Advice Free.**  
Medical Advice Free is a service for those in need.

**Go South!**  
Go South! is a travel guide for the southern states.

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