

Planet	Rises h. m.	Souths h. m.	Sets h. m.	Decl. on meridian
Mercury ...	5 48 ...	12 13 ...	18 38 ...	4 10' N.
Venus ...	6 51 ...	13 43 ...	20 35 ...	9 22 N.
Mars ...	6 22 ...	12 38 ...	18 54 ...	2 27 N.
Jupiter... ..	21 18* ...	2 22 ...	7 26 ...	11 42 S.
Saturn... ..	11 7 ...	19 16 ...	3 25* ...	22 30 N.

* Indicates that the rising is that of the preceding evening and the setting that of the following morning.

March	h.	
20 ...	22 ...	Sun in equator.
22 ...	3 ...	Mercury in inferior conjunction with the Sun.

Variable Stars

Star	R.A. h. m.	Decl. ° ' "	h. m.
Algol	3 0'8 ...	40 31' N. ...	Mar. 20, 4 36 m
ζ Geminorum ...	6 57'4 ...	20 44' N. ...	23, 1 25 m
U Monocerotis ...	7 25'4 ...	9 33' S. ...	25, 2 14 m
S Cancri	8 37'5 ...	19 26' N. ...	25, 19 0 M
U Hydræ	10 32'0 ...	12 48' S. ...	21, 22 42 m
δ Libræ	14 54'9 ...	8 4' S. ...	22, m
U Coronæ	15 13'6 ...	32 4' N. ...	23, 22 47 m
U Ophiuchi... ..	17 10'8 ...	1 20' N. ...	24, 1 1 m
		and at intervals of	20 8
W Sagittarii ...	17 57'8 ...	29 35' S. ...	Mar. 25, 23 0 m
β Lyræ... ..	18 45'9 ...	33 14' N. ...	21, 23 0 m
			25, 4 0 M
η Aquilæ	19 46'7 ...	0 43' N. ...	25, 22 0 M
R Aquarii	23 38'0 ...	15 55' S. ...	26, M

M signifies maximum; m minimum.

Meteor-Showers

Near 55 Aurigæ, R.A. 98°, Decl. 45° N.; and on March 20, near θ Ursæ Majoris, R.A. 145°, Decl. 48° N.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES

OXFORD has decided to establish a Readership in Geography; candidates are invited to apply. Cambridge has postponed taking a similar step till 1888. While on this subject we may state that by a new Imperial ordinance geography has been raised to an equal footing with the most important subjects taught in German middle-class schools — *Realschulen* and *Gymnasien*. The programme for the examination of teachers desiring to make this one of their special subjects has been issued. There are three grades, and the standard in each is very high.

ACCORDING to advices received at Zanzibar from Uganda, Dr. Junker's caravan safely reached Emin Pasha, who was in good health. Intelligence has also been sent to Zanzibar that five months ago Emin Pasha visited Uganda, but that King M'wanga refused to allow him or his followers to pass through his territory. Emin Pasha then attempted to make arrangements for his passage through Karagwa, on the western shore of the Victoria Nyanza, but failed in this also, and afterwards returned to Wadelai, leaving a detachment of soldiers at Unyoro under the command of Capt. Casati, Emin Pasha's sole European companion.

WE learn on the best authority that Mr. Stanley, on his arrival at Stanley Falls with the first contingent of his Expedition, about 250, will proceed at once to Emin Pasha, without waiting for the rest of his party. No doubt he will be reinforced by some of Tippoo's men, and in this way there will not be a moment's delay. The main body will follow as soon as steamers are able to land them all at Stanley Falls, but first a camp will be established at some distance from the Falls as a base of operations. Dr. Junker gave an account of his seven years' exploring work, on February 26, to the Cairo Geographical Society. His magnificent maps were shown, one of them measuring 13 feet by 23 feet. Dr. Schweinfurth maintained the absolute accuracy of Junker's maps in all respects. Junker then gave a detailed account of his sojourn in the Niam-Niam country. Here he found extensive fertile plains, veritable savannahs, with grass over 3 feet high, and abundance of game. He then passed on to his exploration of the Wellé and the

Mepoko, to within four days' journey of the Congo, concluding by giving some interesting details of the effect of the Mahdi revolt on these countries.

THE well-known African traveller, Dr. Zintgraff, who has been commissioned by the German Government to explore the Cameroon district, intends visiting the Cameroon Mountains. As large quantities of caoutchouc are said to be obtained there, Dr. Zintgraff will be accompanied by an expert in that material.

AN official publication of the Colonial Office (African, No. 332) contains a great deal of original information regarding the different districts and tribes of Sierra Leone and its vicinity.

ON Monday evening last a paper on "The Alpine Regions of Alaska" was read by Lieut. H. Seton-Karr at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society. In the course of a description of a visit to this territory last year, the reader expressed the opinion that the St. Elias Alpine region offers one of the best places for the study of glacial phenomena under the most powerful conditions. According to Dall, the American surveyor, Mount St. Elias is 19,500 feet high. It is a mass of snow and ice from base to summit, and has always been marked in modern maps as exactly on the 141st meridian, which is the boundary line. If the shore line was correctly charted, he found that the summit was east of the meridian of longitude mentioned. It was therefore in the British Empire. Describing the ascent of the mountain, he stated that he proceeded to a point which the aneroid instruments gave as 7200 feet above the sea-level. There remained in the Alpine regions of the North Pacific a wide field for explorers. Mounts Crillon, Fairweather, and La Pérouse, respectively 15,900, 15,500, and 11,300 feet high, were not quite so striking as the one he described, but were much nearer to civilised settlements. There is a large blank space upon the map of Alaska, lying between Cook's Inlet and the great Yukon River. It is as unknown as any of the unexplored regions on the globe.

A JOURNEY of considerable interest is now being carried out in Central Asia by Mr. A. D. Carey, of the Bombay Civil Service. Mr. Carey left India in May 1885, and marched through Ladak into Northern Tibet (Chángtán) as far as the Mangtsa Lake, and then struck northward, descending on the plain of Turkestan, near Kiria. He thus traversed over 300 miles of country which had never before been visited by a European. The altitudes on this section of the journey were always very great, the track running usually at about 16,000 feet above the sea, while one at least of the passes crossed was calculated to reach 19,000 feet. After a stay at Kiria and Khotan, the Khotan River was followed to its junction with the Tarim; the route then lay along the latter river to Sarik, and then across a stretch of desert to Sháh-Yarand Kuchár. From the latter place the Tarim was followed down to a point where it turns southward towards Lake Lob. From this point the towns of Kurla and Kárastaber were visited, and about the end of the year the Tarim was struck again and tracked down to Lake Lob. Thus the whole length of the Tarim has been explored. The country along its banks is described as flat and reedy, and the people extremely poor and miserable. Mr. Carey pitched his camp at the village of Cháklik, some distance south of the lake, and close to the foot of the great range of mountains which forms the northern scarp of the Tibetan highlands. On April 30, 1886, Mr. Carey started from this village on a journey southward into Tibet, over a pass in the Altyn Tagh Range, and onward by a track occasionally used by the Kalmucks. Since this start nothing has been heard of Mr. Carey, but it is presumed that after spending the summer and autumn in travelling over the elevated region he has returned to Turkestan to winter.

THE principal paper in the March number of *Petermann's Mitteilungen* is a special study of the basin of the Cachapool in the province of Santiago, Chili, by Dr. A. Plagemann. There is also a short paper on the hydrography of Batanga Land, by Herr P. Langhaus. From the notes we are glad to learn that the Roumanian Government has adopted a plan for the triangulation of that country, which will be the means of filling up an important gap in the cartography of Europe. Ergänzungsheft No. 85 of *Petermann's* contains a detailed account, with map and diagram, of Dr. Gustav Radde's journeys in the Alpine region of Daghestan in the summer of 1885.