

Planet.	Rises.		Souths.		Sets.		Right asc. and declination on meridian.	
	h.	m.	h.	m.	h.	m.	h.	m.
Mercury...	8	9	13	26	18	43	13	5' 1" ... 9 8 S
Venus....	2	7	9	36	17	5	9 13' 9" ... 16 11 N.	
Mars	2	54	10	13	17	32	9 51' 0" ... 14 19 N.	
Jupiter...	14	24	18	17	22	10	17 56' 3" ... 23 28 S.	
Saturn....	3	9	10	23	17	37	10 0' 7" ... 13 28 N.	
Uranus ...	8	12	13	38	19	4	13 16' 7" ... 7 29 S.	
Neptune..	20	44*	4	34	12	24	4 11' 7" ... 19 25 N.	

* Indicates that the rising is that of the preceding evening.

Sept. h. Mars in conjunction with and 0° 1' north of Saturn. Some interesting particulars, by Mr. Marth, concerning the near approach of these planets are given in the *Monthly Notices* of the R. Astron. Soc., vol. xlix. p. 424. Observations of the appearance which the planets will present, by persons not possessing telescopes, will be especially interesting. The bright star Regulus will be in the immediate vicinity.

20 ... 23 ... Mercury at greatest elongation from the Sun, 26° east.

Variable Stars.

Star.	R.A.		Decl.		h.	m.
	h.	m.	h.	m.		
T Arietis ...	2	42' 1"	17	3 N.	Sept. 16,	m
Algol ...	3	1' 0"	40	32 N.	" 16,	22 52 m
U Coronæ ...	15	13' 7"	32	3 N.	" 16,	21 25 m
W Herculis...	16	31' 3"	37	34 N.	" 20,	M
U Ophiuchi...	17	10' 9"	1	20 N.	" 18,	23 13 m
X Sagittarii...	17	40' 6"	27	47 S.	" 16,	1 0 M
U Sagittarii...	18	25' 6"	19	12 S.	" 18,	0 0 m
β Lyrae...	18	46' 0"	33	14 N.	" 17,	21 0 m ₂
S Vulpeculæ ...	19	43' 8"	27	1 N.	" 21,	0 m
η Aquilæ ...	19	46' 8"	0	43 N.	" 20,	0 0 m
S Sagittæ ...	19	51' 0"	16	20 N.	" 15,	1 0 m
R Sagittæ ...	20	9' 0"	16	23 N.	" 21,	m
X Cygni ...	20	39' 1"	35	11 N.	" 18,	22 0 m
T Aquarii ...	20	44' 1"	5	34 S.	" 15,	M
δ Cephei ...	22	25' 1"	57	51 N.	" 20,	1 0 m

M signifies maximum; m minimum; m₂ secondary minimum.

Meteor-Showers.

	R.A.	Decl.	
Near ε Tauri ...	65	22 N.	Swift; streaks.
" η Aurigæ ...	75	41 N.	" "
" ν Orionis ...	90	18 N.	" "
	98	43 N.	" "

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

THE Indian Survey Department has just issued the second edition of an elaborate coloured map of India in six sheets, fully corrected up to 1888. The scale is 32 miles to the inch, and the details are most minute. British territory is clearly marked as well as dependent and subordinate native States, and independent countries and foreign possessions. Main and minor roads too are clearly noted, and railways open and in progress are indicated, while the position of lighthouses, passes, forts, and canals, is shown in a most precise manner; another feature is that the altitudes above sea-level of the chief stations throughout India are given. The map was first issued under the direction of Lieut.-General J. T. Walker, C.B., R.E., and is now reissued under instructions from Colonel H. R. Thuillier, R.E.

It is reported from Honolulu that H.M.S. *Espiègle* arrived there on August 28, after annexing Humphrey and Rierson Islands, in the Manihiki Group, a cluster of small islands in the Eastern Pacific to the north of Cook Islands.

THE following letter is published from Captain Grombchevsky, who started last spring for Kafirstan:—"I left Marghilan on July 13, and was compelled to halt owing to the overflow of the River Isfaran and the destruction of the bridges. After vain efforts to cross the snow-covered ridge of Transalai, opposite to

Altyn Mazar, I returned to Alai, and reached Kala-i-Khumb, through Karategin as far as Moumina, Lake Yashil, the pass of Gardami, Kafar Vakhia, and Passand. I purposed proceeding up the River Khuf, as far as Lake Shiva, but the borders of the lake were occupied by Afghan troops. I shall therefore go up the Panjah towards Roshan and Shugnan, where Ak Barsha, whose days are numbered, still holds his own. He lately made a bold *sortie* against the Afghans, and took the towns of Ishkashin and Zebac, but, being surrounded by superior and better-disciplined forces of Afghans, he was obliged to surrender both places and retreat on Shugnan. He sent his Afghan prisoners to Darvaz, whence they were sent home by the Bokharan authorities through Kouliab. In three days I shall be in the centre of military operations, and as the issue is certain to be favourable to the Afghans, I am sending a letter to Faizabad, to the Ameer's lieutenant, asking permission to pass through Kafirstan. The letter is carried by a native of Shugnan, who was sold as a slave for his devotion to the Afghans, and is owing his liberty to me. All well, in high spirits and full of energy. I have with me seven Cossacks, two Tekkes, two Kirghiz, one native of Shugnan, and one German."

THE following account of M. Bonvalot's tour in Central Asia is taken by the Paris *Figaro* from a letter from the traveller himself. He is accompanied by Prince Henry of Orleans, the eldest son of the Duc de Chartres. They have safely reached the Russo-Chinese frontier, and when the traveller wrote were about to cross into Chinese territory. M. Bonvalot's present object is nothing less than to make his way into Tonquin across China. The following is his proposed itinerary: from Omsk to Semipalatinsk, then to Bakti, next to Chuguchak, and thence onwards in succession through Chicho, Manas, Urumisi, Karashar, Korla, by the course of the Tarim and Lob Nor to Karkalik, across the Tchamuen Tai by the way of Naichi Gob to Koukon Sai, Tsamdo, Batang, Yunnanfor, and finally Tonquin. M. Bonvalot ends his itinerary with the following reflections:—"A sufficiently hazardous task, perhaps incapable of execution. In a word this is our ideal, but complications and accidents may perhaps compel us to modify it. For the present we hope to reach China as quickly as possible. The approach of winter on the higher plateaus of Tibet frightens me a little, and makes me long to be there."

THE Indian mail brings intelligence of the death of Mr. William Watts M'Nair, of the Indian Survey. In 1883, Mr. M'Nair, disguised as a Mahometan doctor, succeeded in reaching the outlying valleys of Kafirstan, travelling by way of the Swat Valley and Chitral. For this adventurous journey, in the course of which he obtained much valuable information regarding the passes of the Hindoo Koosh and about the manners and customs of the Sirjah Push Kafirs, the Royal Geographical Society awarded the Murchison grant. Mr. M'Nair, in whom the Indian Government has lost an able and zealous servant, died at Mussoorie, on August 13, of fever contracted at Quetta.

IN answer to telegraphic inquiries, addressed to Tromsø by the Bremen Geographical Society respecting the fate of Dr. Kukenthal, whom they had sent out to explore the North Polar regions, a reply was received a few days ago stating that, although the *Berntina*, on board which Dr. Kukenthal was, had stranded, yet the young explorer and his companion, Dr. Walter, with all their equipment, had been saved. Their voyage had not even been delayed, as they had not returned to Tromsø, but had proceeded in another sealer, the *Cecilie Magdalena*. In July they intended to press forward on the north coast of Spitzbergen.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE result of the examination for certificates held in July last under the direction of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board has been published. In the examination for higher certificates there were 1161 candidates, of these 64 girls were candidates for letters only. The number of higher certificates awarded was 785, and the number of letters given to girls was 51. The total number of candidates for lower certificates was 709, and the number of certificates awarded was 408. For the newly-established commercial certificates there were 66 candidates, and 25 certificates were awarded.