Note on Double Stars.

Dr. C. S. Hastings, of the Johns Hopkins University, has called my attention to an oversight in my observations of double stars. In looking for a star discovered by Dr. Hastings, I mistook the star Σ 567 for it: this star having nearly the same right-ascension and differing only 16' in declination. Since receiving Dr. Hastings's note, I have examined the object found by him, which proves to be a fine double star. My observations give

	p	s
1882 Febr. 1	248°3	0°54
6	68.7	0.54
8	66.6	0.55
Mean	67°87	0°543

Magnitudes 8 and 8.5. This is a Bessel star, being Weisse IV 609; and its position for 1880.0 is:

$$\alpha = 4^h 29^m 5 \quad \delta = +19^\circ 30' 8.$$

This star was discovered by Dr. Hastings in 1869 with the 9-inch equatorial of the Yale College Observatory; and at that time he estimated the angle of position and distance to be 90° and 0".5. Since the observed angle is now considerably different, this star is worthy of attention.

I have also observed the star β Leporis as follows:

	p	s
1882 Febr. 1	279°7	2°74
6	285.2	2.73
17	282.4	2.63
Mean	282°43	2°700

Hence the rapid angular motion of this star, shown by the early observations, is not confirmed. This being a case of a bright star with a small companion near it, the angles of position are subject to large errors of observation.

U. S. Naval Observatory,
Washington 1882 Febr. 18.

A. Hall.

V Cygni [Birmingham: 1855.0 20^h36^m38^s +47°37'6].*)

In the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 2421 Dr. Schmidt gives the results of his observations of this star, which became invisible to him on Nov. 24, and remained so up to his last search for it on Dec. 22. It must have been from rather superior telescopic power — scarcely from a better atmosphere — that I was able not only to see it, but to detect its deep crimson color when no more than 12. mag., and probably less, on December 21. I used a power of 53 on a 4½ inch object glass. This appeared, by a mistake in my letter in the A. N. No. 2411 to be 6½ inches.

Millbrook Tuam, 1882 March 11.

J. Birmingham.

Bemerkung. Dr. Hartwig schreibt mir März 30 aus Strassburg, dass dieser Stern leidlich hell geworden und blutroth sei, und dass er rasch seinem Maximum zuzueilen scheine. Er wurde hier April 3 von Dr. Lamp und mir 8^m4 geschätzt; die Farbe war sehr roth. Der Stern wird mit V Cygni zu bezeichnen sein.

Kr.

Red variable Stars.

V Cygni. — This star is now a striking object of 8. magnitude. In the A. N. 2411 I described it as having fallen on Dec. 21 to 12. magnitude at most, and I believe it was, in reality, less. This appeared about its minimum, and its maximum seemed to have been reached on June 6, when I found it 8. mag. about the same as at present. On May 22, when I first found it, it was about 9. If it has now attained its maximum, there must be a striking inequality in its periods of decrease and increase, but perhaps it will go on to a greater magnitude this time than before.

U Cygni, No. 553 in my Red star Cat., seemed last night to be smaller than I ever saw it previously, and under 11. magnitude. Its color was, however, very marked. The blue star near it, which I have long believed to be slightly variable (see Catalogue) seems now at a maximum of 8. magnitude; though, possibly, this may be only apparent through contrast with the decrease of its neighbour.

No. 448, in which I have also detected variability, is now about 8.5, and color intense as when I first found it in April 1876.

Millbrook, Tuam 1882 April 29.

J. Birmingham.

*) Bereits früher durch Extrablatt April 6 mitgetheilt. Hiermit sind alle Artikel des Extrablatts wieder abgedruckt.