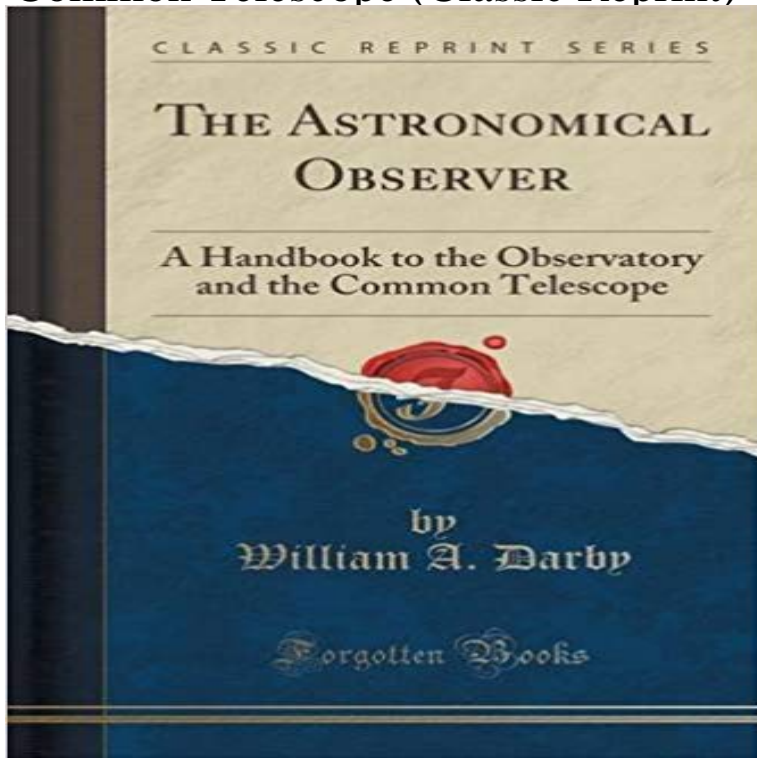


The Astronomical Observer: A Handbook to the Observatory and the Common Telescope (Classic Reprint)



Excerpt from The Astronomical Observer:
A Handbook to the Observatory and the
Common Telescope
Mysterious Night!
when our first parent knew Thee from
report divine, and heard thy name,
Did he not tremble for this lovely frame,
This glorious canopy of light and blue?
Yet, neath a curtain of translucent dew,
Bathed in the rays of the great setting
flame, Hesperus with the host of heaven
came, And, lo! Creation wide
in mans view. Who could have thought
such darkness lay conceal'd Within thy
beams, O Sun! or who could find,
Whilst fly, and leaf, and insect stood
reveal'd, That to such countless orbs
Thou madst us blind! Why do we then
shun death with anxious strife? If light
can thus deceive, why may not life?
The history of Astronomical Science is
probably coeval with the history of man.
The unrivalled splendour of the night
sky would naturally awaken interest,
that interest would induce observation,
and observation would soon inculcate
the leading principles of astronomy.
If Adam wept, as poets tell us, when
he beheld the first sunset, his sorrow
must have been very soon turned into
joy at the appearance of Sirius,
monarch of the suns, with his heavenly
host. Josephus asserts that God
indulged the antediluvians with a very
long life, in order that they might
bring astronomy and geometry to
perfection; and that Abraham was a
most intense observer of the stars,
and the first to bring astronomy from
Chaldea into Egypt. Job certainly
possessed an intimate knowledge of
the heavens, for this is implied in
the questions addressed to him by the
Creator, Canst thou bind the sweet
influences of Pleiades, or loose the
bands of Orion? Canst thou bring
forth Mazzaroth in his season? or
canst thou guide Arcturus with his
sons? Knowest thou the ordinances
of heaven? canst thou set the
dominion thereof in the earth? - Job
xxxviii. 31 - 33. David was an
observer of the heavens, and

composed some astronomical hymns (Psa. viii. and xix.) for the services of the Temple; Isaiah exhorted the Hebrews to a contemplation of the starry firmament as a ground of confidence in God: Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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