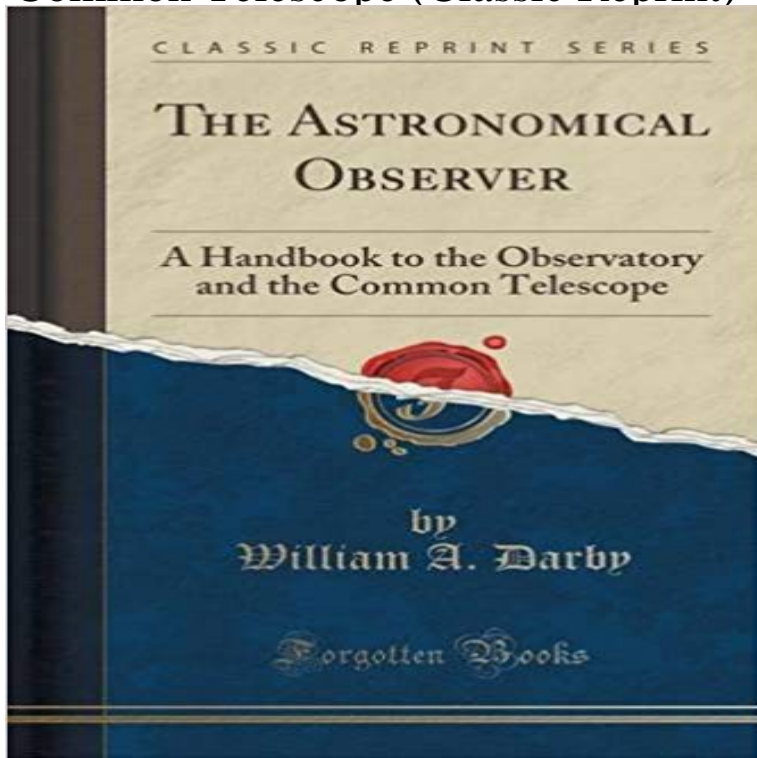


The Astronomical Observer: A Handbook to the Observatory and the Common Telescope (Classic Reprint)



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
spread 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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