

ASTRONOMY.

Far away from the earth on which we dwell in the blue ocean of space, thousands of bright orbs, in clustering configurations of exceeding beauty invite the upward gaze of man and tempt him to the examination of the wonderful sphere by which he is surrounded. The starry heavens do not display their glittering constellations in the glare of day, while the rush and turmoil of business incapacitates man for the enjoyment of their solemn grandeur. It is in the stillness of the midnight hour, when all nature is hushed in repose, when the hum of the world's on-goings is no longer heard, that the planets roll and shine, and the bright stars trooping through the deep heavens, speak to the willing spirit that would learn their mysterious being. Often have I swept backward six thousand years in imagination, and stood beside our Great Ancestor, as he gazed for the first time on the going down of the sun. What strange sensations must have swept through his bewildered mind, as he watched the last departing ray of the sinking orb, unconscious whether he should ever witness its return.

Wrapt in a maze of thought, strange and startling, his eyes linger about the point in which the sun had slowly faded from his view. A mysterious darkness hitherto unexperienced, creeps over the face of nature. The beautiful scenes of earth, which through the swift hours of the first wonderful day of his existence, had so charmed his senses, are slowly fading one by one from his dimmed vision. A gloom deeper than that which covers earth, steals across the mind of earth's solitary inhabitant. He raises his inquiring gaze towards heaven, and lo! a silver crescent of light, clear and beautiful, hanging in the western sky meets his astonished eye. The young moon charms his untutored vision, and leads him upward to her bright attendants, which are now stealing one by one, from out the deep blue sky. The solitary gazer bows, and wonders and adores. The hours glide by—the silver moon is gone—the stars are rising—slowly ascending the heights of heaven and silently sweeping downward in the stillness of night. The first grand revolution to mortal vision is nearly completed. A faint streak of rosy light is seen in the east—it brightens—the stars fade—the planets are extinguished—the eye is fixed in mute astonishment on the growing splendor, till the first rays of the returning sun dart their radiance on the young earth and its solitary inhabitant. To him "the evening and the morning were the first day."

The curiosity excited on this first solemn night—the consciousness that in the heavens God had declared his glory—the eager desire to comprehend the mysteries that dwell in these bright orbs, have clung to the descendants of him who first watched and wondered, through the long lapse of six thousand years. In this boundless field of investigation, human genius has won its most signal victories. Generation after generation has rolled away, age after age has swept silently by, but each has swelled by its contributions the stream of discovery. One barrier after another has given way to the force of intellect—mysterious movements have been unraveled—mighty laws have been revealed—ponderous orbs have been weighed, their reciprocal influences computed, their complex wanderings made clear, until the mind, majestic in strength, has mounted step by step, up the rocky height, up its self-built pyramid, from whose star-crowned summit it looks out on the grandeur of the universe, self-eloth with the presence of a God. With resistless energy it rolls back the tide of time, and lives in the configuration of rolling worlds a thousand years ago, or more wonderful, it sweeps away the dark curtain from the future, and beholds those celestial scenes which shall greet the vision of generations when a thou-and years have rolled away, breaking their noiseless waves on the dim shores of eternity.—*Mitchell's Planetary and Stellar Worlds.*

THE MANAGEMENT OF BOYS.

The Country Gentleman remarks: One of the worst courses with boys is to begin prating to them of God's displeasure with disobedient children and telling them that Christ will not love them for doing this or doing that, for a child often takes an antipathy to religion of any kind from being bored from morn till night about it. Another of the unfortunate steps is to have them so situated as to be at the beck and call of lazy men and women, who are well able to wait upon themselves; they are many times sent to do jobs, while the person sending them does nothing but gossip, perhaps talking enviously of the children's parents, and backbiting everybody not present; the children then become unwilling to do as they are bidden by anybody, and become averse to labor of any kind, for they begin to see that they are doing no real good for themselves or their parents.

As soon as they are ten or twelve years old let them have something to call their own, and let them derive profits therefrom. Set them something to do, and pay them for doing it in money, with their mothers sanction, to obtain extra comforts in dress, as she thinks best to advise them, and do not be telling them every day or two, they must be doing something for a living, for you cannot afford to keep them in idleness. Boys can see through all selfish, unfeeling natures, and will soon hate their preachers, whether their fathers or not, and whether they express or conceal their dislike.

Some wooden-headed kind of men are always quoting such passages as "spare the rod and you spare the child," and are exceedingly officious in giving advice to parents, all of it tending toward making their offspring work, work, work! as if that were the beginning and the end of all existence. I say, give them education, and let their work be such as they will feel a pleasure in performing, and such as they can feel benefits themselves.

Gifts break through stone walls. Napoleon's fete day cost Paris \$100,000. The New York Herald claims to have cleared \$100,000 during the first half of the present year.

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