

家

家

家

家

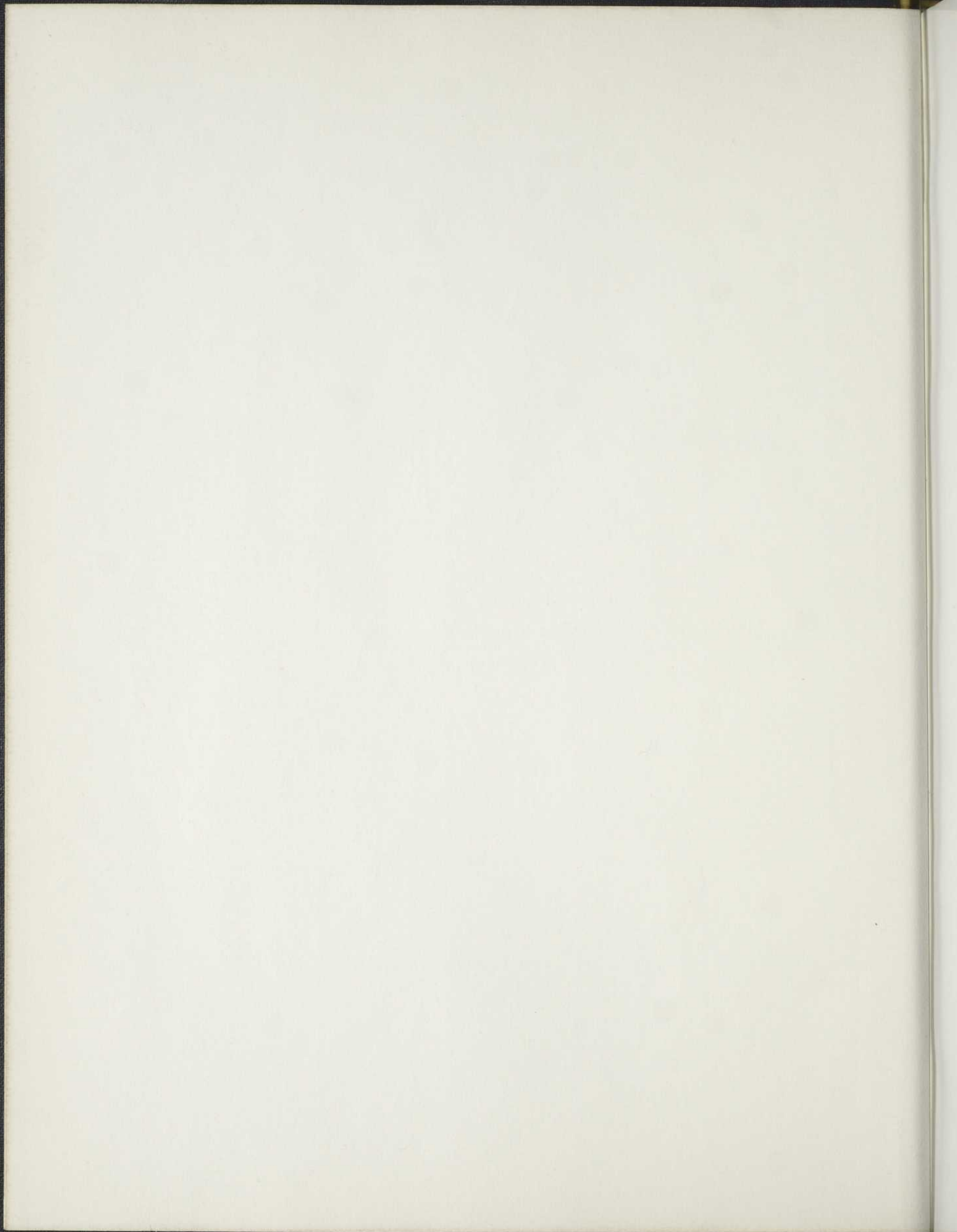






Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec





ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATIONS

BY
J. H. VAN VLIET

NEW YORK
1911

BY STEPHEN M. MITCHELL

24
INC
P. 21.6
D. 1/1

INC
P321.69
D56107

THE UNION

OF

TASTE AND SCIENCE

A POEM:

TO WHICH ARE SUBJOINED A FEW ELUCIDATING NOTES

By STEPHEN DICKSON Esqr.

RES
AD
37
[5

QUEBEC
PRINTED BY JOHN NEILSON, NO 3 MOUNTAIN STREET

QUEBEC

PRINTED BY JOHN NEILSON, NO 3 MOUNTAIN STREET

1799



BIBLIOTHEQUE
SAINT-SULPICE MONTREAL

INC
P 321.69
D561un

CCCLXXV
CCCLXXV

And while almighty wisdom he adores, 15
 The vast out-stretch'd creation he explores,
 Through all the elements adventurous goes,
 Though Air, Sea, Earth, and Fire his search oppose.

Now with the juvenile whim of gallant skill,
 (Yet bent some useful purpose to fulfill,) 20
 Sportive the carrier-pigeon's neck he strides,
 And cleaves with rapid wing th'ærial tides,
 From Bagdad to Aleppo speeds the scroll
 That fans the passions, or informs the soul.
 Or, with Montgolfier dares cœlestial height, 25
 And emulates Elijah's fiery flight,
 Sees cities dwindle, mightiest states grow small,
 And spies in miniature the whole terrestrial ball.

Now, with less bold, yet more ennobling plans,
 The telegraphs of naval tactics scans, 30
 Displays the colours, that, like Iris, fly,
 Or whirls commanding rockets thro' the sky ;

Informs the mighty soul of gallant Howe,
 'Till Glory rides on his victorious prow ;
 Jarvis inspires, while with address divine 35
 He breaks and triumphs o'er th'Iberian line ;
 With all the magnanimity of Duncan blends ;
 And succour to heroic Nelson lends.

Aye ! let vain France, despoil'd of every flag,
 Still Babel schemes, still impious cunning brag, 40
 Still foully hug the meretricious art
 That blinds the judgment, and pollutes the heart,
 While Britain's guardian Genius towers sublime,
 And walks with SCIENCE in the starry clime.

Now, with the dread Monsoon fee SCIENCE sweep, 45
 O'er the tempestuous bosom of the deep ;
 Now lightly skim the phosphorescent waves,
 And now plunge down to Ocean's darkest caves.
 Condemn'd Leviathan starts in despair,
 While prison'd pearls burst forth to gem his hair, 50

As from Heraclea he the the magnet tears,
 And the rich gift to favour'd Florio bears.

Full of stupendous projects, SCIENCE goes
 Fearless o'er Arab's sands, o'er Zembla's snows ;
 Surprises Nature in her loneliest haunts, 55
 And a gay requiem over Ignorance chaunts,
 Now with Linnæus treads th'ennamell'd meads,
 Where wily Love botanic sageness leads.
 And lo ! each vegetable breast suspires,
 Breathing in odorous plaints Idalian fires ; 60
 The genial magic steals from flower to flower,
 And SCIENCE smiles at Love's transcendent power.

Now with severer brow, and piercing ken,
 He storms the tangled brake, the cavern'd den ;
 Scaffolds the elephant's enormous sides, 65
 'Till castles move as warrior Wisdom guides.
 Anon, of lonely contemplation fond,
 Surveys the fabrics of the beaver pond ;

Or Nature's policy delights to see
 In the well ordered kingdom of the bee. 70

There no licentious demagogues declaim,
 (For self and social interest are the same,)
 No forc'd equality insults the laws
 Of various worth and rank that Nature draws ;
 In every breast a love of order glows, 75
 The bond of patriots, and the scourge of foes ;
 Though rich industrious, though loyal free,
 And such, O Britain ! as thou still may'st be,

Nor clogg'd by earth, nor bounded by the skies,
 Undaunted SCIENCE raging fire defies : 80
 The burst volcano to the crater mounts,
 And springs refresh'd from Hecla's boiling founts.
 When lurid lightnings spread dismay around,
 And thunder rolls the death-denouncing sound,
 He calmly views the elemental jar, 85
 And rears the magic rod that stills the heavenly war.

With not less ease he wields terrestrial rays,
 Constructs the furnace, and confines the blaze,
 Flings to the furious blast the shapeless ore,
 And strait redeems the bright metallic store : 90
 The sordid world admire the glittering prize,
 And gaze on SCIENCE with converted eyes.
 So, when the captive Israelites, consign'd
 To bigot flames, appear'd unhurt, refin'd;
 Their radiant forms bespoke their mighty Lord, 95
 And impious heathens trembled and ador'd.

Such was the youth whose meritorious prime,
 (Years of proud promise and attempts sublime !)
 From Honour's sacred lips drew pure acclaim,
 And fill'd the trumpet of eternal Fame. 100

At length his praises reach'd the modest ears
 Of TASTE ; a lovely nymph of tender years,
 Daughter of Beauty by a reverend sire,
 What time declining years and milder fire

Still possess'd charms to fascinate the fair, 105
 And Virtue sought a solace of his care.

Nurs'd in the lap of Elegance, the maid
 In early childhood with the Graces play'd.
 Oft twining sprigs of bay and fragrant flowers
 In gay festoons, she chain'd the smiling Hours : 110
 Delighted Fancy hover'd round her head,
 And flew obsequious where the virgin led.

Yet most she mild Simplicity approv'd,
 Her converse courted, and her pleasures lov'd.
 With her she oft has risen at earliest dawn, 115
 And saunter'd on the dew-bespangled lawn,
 Greeting the orient Sun's inspiring beams,
 That tune the groves, and animate the streams.
 With her she oft has climb'd the mountain brow
 To sketch new landscapes in the scene below ; 120
 For, at her bidding magic Fancy flew,
 And still created as her mistress drew.

From yonder hill she par'd a shapeless hump ;
 That lawn embellish'd with its tufted clump ;
 Yon mouldering Priory that naked stood, 125
 Emboss'd with ivy, and o'erhung with wood ;
 There thro' a lazy streamlet's oozy bed
 The lively current in meanders led ;
 Swell'd the light convex of that bordering height,
 Yet gave the distant scenery to our sight. 130

But not by rural forms was TASTE engross'd ;
 Each imitative Art her aid could boast.
 She govern'd Angelo's impetuous soul,
 And raptur'd Raphael own'd her soft controul,
 Seductive Titian's glowing colours live 135
 With all the vivid charms her soul could give.

When mighty Handel's comprehensive mind
 Each congruous element of sound combin'd,
 Exalted TASTE rehears'd the choral lays,
 And peal'd with Angels the Messiah's praise. 140

Yet oft she lov'd to seek the secret haunts
 Where the mild anchorite his vesper chaunts ;
 Or list, as in the faintly-floating wind
 Romantic Melody with sorrow pin'd.
 In love-lorn grief did Philomela plain ; 145
 Recording all the sadly pleasing strain,
 At evening to the Leasowes she repair'd,
 And sooth'd her Shenstone, as his woes she shar'd.
 Hark ! how as thrills the sweet Storace's note
 Responsive warblings in the æther float ! 150
 Soft Zephyrs waft them to the distant waste,
 And wondering Wildness owns the power of TASTE.

But now, (as Fate ordains that heavenly Love
 Shall every heaven-descended spirit move,)
 Her tender breast dilates with new desire, 155
 And the pure flame is sanction'd by her sire ;
 For lo ! commission'd from th'empyrean sky
 Young SCIENCE beams all-glorious to her eye,
 As achromatic Truth his form displays
 In the bright focus of cœlestial rays. 160

The nymph enamour'd smiles him to her arms,
 And SCIENCE pants entrammell'd by her charms.

Abrupt---the clangor of impetuous war
 Rouses his soul some God-like deed to dare;
 He flies the scenes where Love and Pleasure smile, 165
 And hurls Britannia's thunder o'er the Nile.
 The potent spell strikes impious Folly dead :
 Wisdom awakes from her primæval bed,
 And hails the valiant chief by sacred SCIENCE led. }

But who can tell how gentle TASTE deplor'd 170
 The fate that sever'd all her soul ador'd !
 For oft, though many a fond and pleasing art
 Play'd 'round her fancy, none e'er touch'd her heart :
 Like the smooth ice reflecting lunar rays,
 Her breast was cold amid the glittering blaze ;
 But when the fervid sun of SCIENCE shone,
 He swell'd her bosom, and unloos'd her zone.

From court to court she flew with anxious haste,
 And the gay footsteps of her childhood trac'd ;
 The solemn pile, the gay arcade explor'd, 180
 The polish'd drawing-room, the festive board :
 Now, all seem'd pompous pride, or gaudy glare,
 Or flippant folly, or voluptuous snare.
 When Memory, (to grief as kind as dear,)
 Whispers reviving counsel in her ear, 185
 And proudly points to the sequester'd scene
 Where Canada enjoys her lov'd Vice-Queen.
 "Ah! there," with transport, "there," exclaims the maid,
 "How oft with PRESCOTT have I fondly stray'd ;
 "Caught from her lips the precepts that refin'd, 190
 "And stamp'd a value on my opening mind ;
 "There from the wife, the mother, and the friend,
 "Learn'd Elegance and Love with Dignity to blend!"
 Then bright and rapid as the nothern-light,
 Across the vast atlantic sped her flight. 195
 The skiff Velella crowded every sail
 To catch the convoy and enjoy the gale ;

The pilot Phæton stooping flew before ;
 And fluttering Halcyon hail'd her from the shore.
 Dione 'spied her 'mid the joyous groupe, 200
 And flew to launch her elegant chaloupe,
 That matchless conch in which young Venus lay
 When first she sprang from the Ægean spray.
 Scarce the light form of TASTE the barque had press'd,
 When in the Chateau shone the much lov'd guest. 205

Here, as invisible to vulgar eyes
 From room to room with rapid glance she flies,
 Amaz'd she sees, while rapture thrills her breast,
 The genuine soul of SCIENCE stand confest.

The veteran warrior, o'er whose laurel'd brow 210
 The olive loves to shoot its foliage now,
 Had rais'd the veil that hangs o'er future years,
 Where SCIENCE fostering Public-Weal appears ;
 Then with his Consort lent a willing hand
 To honour TASTE and SCIENCE through the land. 215

Plain, proud encomium! worthy those to share
 Who make a people's happiness their care!
 For not to arid land more vigour brings
 The confluent bounty of redundant springs,
 Not to the lingering germs that frost conceals 220
 Breathe more auspicious spring's etesian gales,
 Than TASTE and SCIENCE o'er th'untutor'd mind.
 Shed the best benefits of human-kind.

And lo! the grateful ministers prepare
 Whatever exquisite, whatever rare 225
 The tributary elements supply
 From vasty ocean, from encircling sky,
 From teeming earth, or from transmuting fire
 The sage solicits and the world admire.
 The curious ark, by labouring SCIENCE fill'd, 230
 Enamour'd TASTE delights with charms to gild.

There in their native garb obscurely shine
 The rugged treasures of the unwrought mine ::

Like the first natives of our hardy climes
 Who scorn'd the polish of refining times. 235

Here, where the sun descends in mid-day blaze,
 Prismatic crystals put to rout his rays ;

The scatter'd host, as in bright troops they fly,
 Arrest, and dazzle, and enchant the eye.

Ah ! were to it alone the power confin'd ! 240

Did the gay brilliant ne'er seduce the mind,
 Then e'en on earth had Virtue founded thrones
 On the bright pediment of precious stones.

As, yet, when worldly time shall pass away,

And sun and moon be lost in endless day, 245

A wondrous city shall the blest infold,

Its walls of jasper, and its streets of gold,

Its bright foundations evermore to last

With ruby, sapphire, and sardonyx grac'd,

While every gem through the sublime abode 250

Shall multiply the glorious light of God.

But 'till the soul fling off this nymphal coil

And rise transform'd, like Psyche, from the soil,

