

filaments, and so unlike the coarse, woolly, yellow Mullein, was *Verbascum Blattaria*, or Moth Mullein, of the order *Scrophulariaceæ*. Almost equal was the pleasure derived from finding, by consulting an astronomer, that I was right in saying from my use of an opera glass that the little star near Vega in the constellation Lyra was double.

Those who wish merely to learn the names of the constellations, and of the stars of the first magnitude, can do so by using a little pamphlet by Jas. Freeman Clark, "How to Find the Stars." This is chiefly done by what is called Alignment; proceed from the known to the unknown, draw lines from one or two which are known, and thus others can unerringly be found and need never be forgotten. There are several groups always seen, appearing to march round the North Star, the Great Bear, Little Bear, Cassiopeia, the Dragon, others appear in order as the months roll round. Draw lines from those you know in different directions, these will strike some conspicuous star, this again will give you fresh vantage ground, "other fields to win." What we call a beautiful moonlight night is not an ideal night for star-gazers. Electric lights too are an abomination. There is a popular error often made in the expression, "What millions of stars to-night!" as the greatest number seen by the naked eye is only at any one time about three thousand on the clearest night. And what clear nights we have; not till we visit the mother land and find the low clouds confining our view and shutting us in, as it were, are we able to appreciate our own lofty azure arch. No wonder the moons of Mars were discovered by an American astronomer. Under what difficulty must Herschel have worked with that so often murky sky!

The most conspicuous and the grandest of the constellations is Orion,

the "armed man," conspicuous in itself, and still more so by the brilliant stars near it. This part of the sky contains seven stars of the first magnitude: Capella, overhead; Aldebaran, a red star in the Hyades, shaped like a V, near the Pleiades, both belonging to Taurus, the Bull. Four stars in Orion form a quadrilateral, two of them, Betelgeuse and Rigel, being of the first magnitude. Below is Sirius, the Dog Star, the brightest star in the whole sky. A third, Procyon, in the little Dog, forms with the upper star in Orion and Sirius the celebrated equilateral triangle, the three stars being of different colours, red, white, yellow, respectively. Then the three stars in the girdle called the "yardstick of the ancients" measure three degrees, and we can thus compute other distances. A number of faint stars dropping below form the second, and here is a wonderful nebula which may be seen faintly in a field glass. What a glorious sight, climbing the winter sky in succession, Orion, Hyades, Pleiades, and below, Canis Major and Canis Minor. Turn we now to our northern sky, with the Great Bear, known by the seven stars, all now of the second magnitude, save one. It is remarkable that the Indians called this constellation the Great Bear, as is told us by Cotton Mather. Two stars of the first magnitude may be unerringly known by this group, Fontinne, the curve in the handle of the "Dipper" as it is called, and the first bright star is Arcturus; continue it still farther, and you reach Spica, in the Virgin. The Little Bear, much smaller than Ursa Major, turning in the opposite direction seems to circle round the pole, as the star in the tail is the North Star. Between these two constellations is the immense trailing Dragon, twisting and curving up and down. Not far distant Cassiopeia and her chair, the latter tilted back with feet extended,