

**HANDY HELPS, NO. 1: A
MANUAL OF
CURIOUS & INTERESTING
INFORMATION**

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Handy Helps, No. 1: A Manual of Curious & Interesting Information by Albert P. Southwick

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ALBERT P. SOUTHWICK

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No. 1.

A Manual of Curious and Interesting Information.

BY
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INTRODUCTORY.

"Think on these things."—*Philippians* iv., 8.

"When found make a note of."—*Dickens*.

"I pause for a reply."—*Shakespeare*.

"Truth is always strange, stranger than fiction."

—*Byron*.

CURIOSITY.

"How swells the theme! how vain my power I find,
To track the windings of the curious mind;
Let aught be hid, though useless, nothing boots,
Straightway it must be plucked up by the roots.
How oft we lay the volume down to ask
Of him, the victim in the Iron Mask;
The crusted medal rub with painful care,
To spell the legend out—that is not there;
With dubious gaze o'er mossgrown tombstones bend,
To find a name—the herald never penned;
Dig through the lava-deluged city's breast;
Learn all we can, and wisely guess the rest:
Ancient or modern, sacred or profane,
All must be known, and all obscure made plain;
If 't was a pipplin tempted Eve to sin,
If glorious Byron drugged his muse with gin;
If Troy e'er stood, if Shakespeare stole a deer,
If Israel's missing tribes found refuge here;
If like a villain Captain Henry lied,
If like a martyr Captain Morgan died."

Charles Sprague.

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