

**THE STORY OF THE  
STARS. SIMPLY TOLD  
FOR GENERAL READERS**

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The Story of the Stars. Simply Told for General Readers by George F. Chambers

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**GEORGE F. CHAMBERS**

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STARS. SIMPLY TOLD  
FOR GENERAL READERS**



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THE GREAT NEBULA IN ANDROMEDA.  
(*Roberts.*)

# THE STORY OF THE STARS

*SIMPLY TOLD FOR GENERAL READERS*

BY

GEORGE F. CHAMBERS, F. R. A. S.

OF THE INNER TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW

AUTHOR OF

A HANDBOOK OF DESCRIPTIVE AND PRACTICAL ASTRONOMY,  
PICTORIAL ASTRONOMY, ETC.

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## PREFACE.

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WHEN invited to write this little book, I was asked so to shape it that it should be a concise but readable outline of that branch of knowledge which one associates with the expression the "Starry Heavens" liberally interpreted. I was to cater for those rapidly growing thousands of men and women of all ranks who are manifesting in these closing years of the nineteenth century in so many ways and in so many places an interest in the facts and truths of Nature and Physical Science. The task thus imposed upon me was a very congenial one, and I gladly undertook it. How far I have succeeded in presenting my facts in a bright and cheery spirit others must determine. But I would ask it to be understood that I have dealt with facts rather than fancies. There are too many of the former available for a writer on astronomy to make it worth while to waste space in dealing with the latter.

This volume will shortly be followed by another in the same unconventional style entitled, "The Story of the Solar System; or, The Sun, Planets, and Comets popularly described." I trust, however, that many of my readers will not be content with these mere outlines of a noble science, but will desire to obtain a more complete grasp of the subject in all its bearings by studying first my "Pictorial Astronomy" (Whittaker & Co., 2nd ed.), and then my "Handbook of Astronomy" (Clarendon Press,

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4th ed., 3 vols.), which is a comprehensive treatise, yet written in popular language and form so as to subserve the wants of general readers. From both these works thoughts and ideas have no doubt found their way into the present volume.

For the chapter on the work of the Spectroscope in connection with the stars I am indebted to my friend Mr. E. W. Maunder, of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, one of the highest living authorities on this branch of astronomy.

G. F. C.

NORTHFIELD GRANGE, EAST BOURNE,  
*December, 1894.*

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