

# **THE STAR-GAZERS**

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The star-gazers by G. Manville Fenn

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**G. MANVILLE FENN**

**THE  
STAR-GAZERS**



# THE STAR-GAZERS

BY

G. MANVILLE FENN

AUTHOR OF

'ELIS' CHILDREN,' 'A DOUBLE KNOT,' 'THE NEW MISTRESS,' ETC., ETC.

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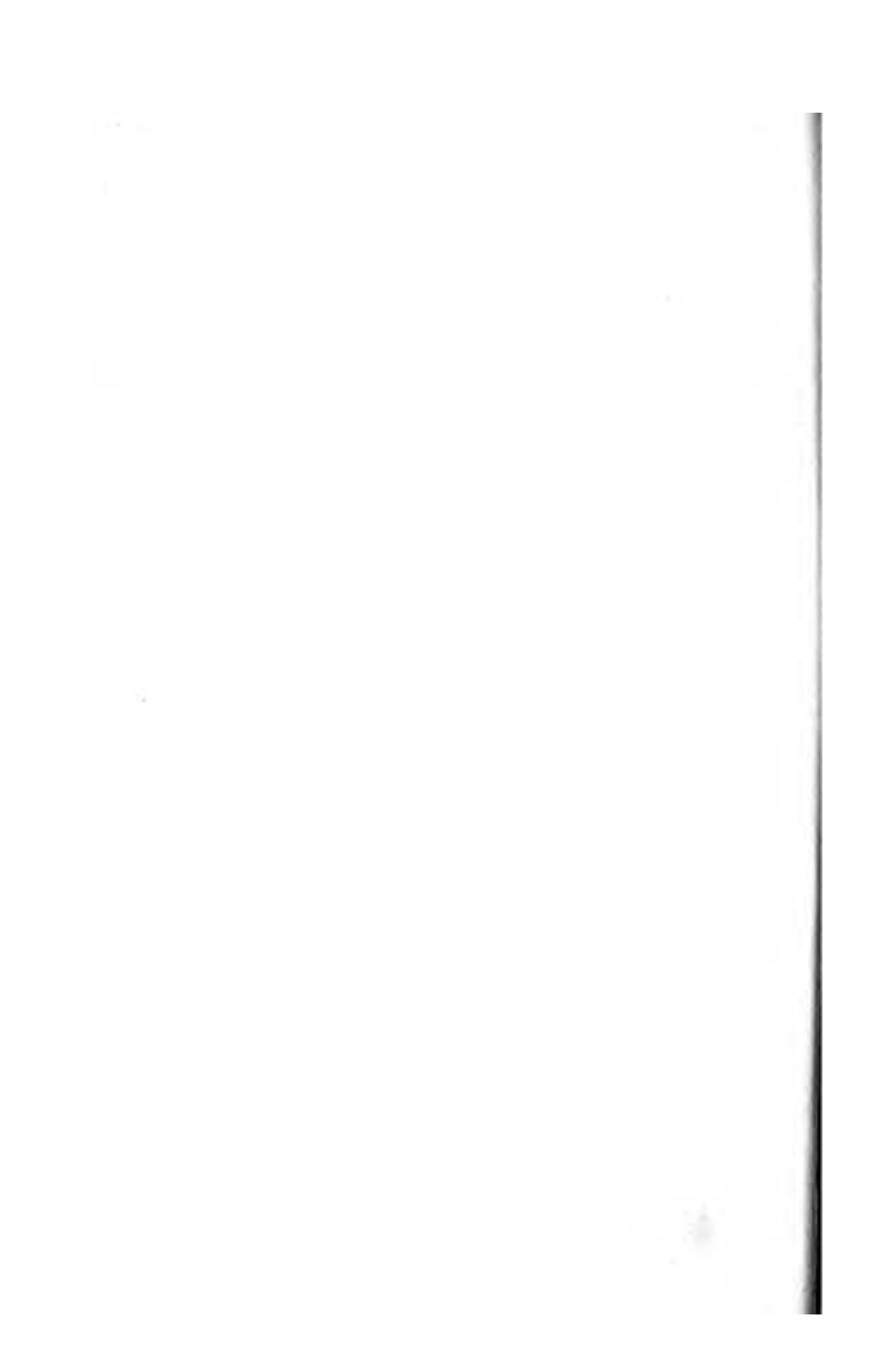
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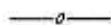
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THE STAR-GAZERS



# THE STAR-GAZERS.



## CHAPTER I.

### GEMINI, WITH MARS IN VIEW.

WITH his grey hair starting out all over his head in a peculiarly fierce way, Major Day was standing and musing just at the edge of the wood, and a few yards from the path, very busy with one of those tortoise-shell framed lenses so popular with botanists, one of those with its three glasses of various powers, which, when superposed, form a combination of great magnifying strength.

Major Day had come upon a tree whose beautifully smooth bark was dappled with patches of brilliant amethystine fungus, a portion of which he had carefully slipped off with a penknife, for the purpose of examining the peculiarities of its structure under the glass.

The old gentleman was so rapt in his pursuit that he did not notice approaching footsteps till Sir John