



Figure 4. G. M. Seabroke. BAA Presidential portrait, 1900.

'anxious to get the 8-inch into thoroughly good hands – such as would *work it*, and *not* place its splendid light 'under a bushel'. Do you know of any observer worthy of it? The cost is £180.<sup>25</sup>

During Clark's visit Dawes accompanied him to London, 'specially to take care of him lest he should utterly lose himself in this interminable city, and to help him see what may be seen in a week.'<sup>26</sup> On June 4 they visited the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, and on June 10 attended the meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society, at which Clark exhibited and described his newly-invented double-eyepiece micrometer.<sup>27</sup> In those few days he was introduced to many eminent astronomers, including Sir John Herschel, Lord Rosse and G. B. Airy. With such influential contacts, and with Dawes' frequent reports of observations made with his instruments, Clark's reputation quickly spread throughout Europe and back to America, and on his return home he was inundated with orders. Thereafter he and his sons became firmly established in their business.<sup>28</sup> His indebtedness to Dawes is evident in a letter to J. M. Wilson, of Rugby, written some twelve years later: '[Dawes] was cordial and sympathizing beyond what I could have reasonably expected . . . To within a few weeks of his death [on 1868 February 15] I had written him more letters than I have ever written to any other fellow mortal, all of which were answered, some at great length, in the most affectionate terms;

beside, in 1862, after the settlement for the last work I sent him, the amount I had received from him in money was greater than I had ever received from any other individual in all my transactions with mankind. Such material aid, at the time, was of great importance to me, but his published opinion, relative to the ability and faithfulness with which I was executing my work, was, as time has proved, of the greater.'<sup>29</sup>

In 1860 Dawes sold the 8-inch OG, with the tube, mount and eyepieces, for £500, to 'a gentleman who wished to have a large telescope . . . [It] is taken down and is now far away.'<sup>30</sup> This left him without a mount for the 8½-inch and he therefore ordered another from Clark, who complied with his request 'to throw all the expense into the perfection of the working parts, all others being painted of a neat stone colour, the total expense being much diminished and the deterioration of the instrument in great measure prevented.'<sup>31</sup> It cost \$1200, and was delivered a few months later. The resulting instrument was used chiefly for double star measures and planetary observations, and less than four years later was replaced with an 8-inch Cooke.<sup>32</sup>

In December 1863 Dawes advertised the complete 8½-inch for sale<sup>33</sup> and, in the following June, received an enquiry from an old college friend of James Chance, the Rev. H. E. Lowe of Atherstone, who subsequently purchased the instrument and its accessories, including a Dollond filar micrometer. Lowe immediately replaced Clark's drive with a new drive by Thomas Cooke, but afterwards refitted Clark's drive, as 'perfect as one has been taught to consider Cooke's mountings to be, the Alvan Clarke [sic] clockwork was pronounced to take decided preference over that by which the York maker replaced it.'<sup>34</sup> But Lowe was only a casual observer, and in 1870 he decided to sell the telescope and all its accessories, together with a wooden observatory which he had built for it. His offer was taken up by George Mitchell Seabroke, of Rugby (Fig. 4).

### The Temple Observatory

In 1863, Seabroke, then aged fifteen, entered Rugby School. He was particularly keen on science, and delighted in carrying out experiments, even connecting the handles of his study door to an electricity supply to discourage intruders. But astronomy held the greatest interest for him, and observations were carried out with his housemaster James M. Wilson, who taught mathematics and natural science. In 1866 Seabroke left school to become a solicitor, but his involvement with the school and with astronomy lasted for the rest of his life.

When Lowe decided to sell his equipment Seabroke introduced him to Wilson, who could not resist the opportunity of acquiring such an instrument. However, Wilson first sought the advice of G. B. Airy, who assured him that 'any telescope which was used and approved for any length of time by Mr Dawes was a very good one,' but that the makers' prices for a