

## THE ROMANCE OF SCIENCE:

EXTRACTS FROM ADDRESSES GIVEN BY LADY BLOUNT.

*TRUTH* has a certain sound, divinely garnished,  
But fiction ever is with falsehood tarnished.

"The truth of the Religion of any people may be tested by its Cosmogony; and according to whatever it may be, the system of Religion associated with it must stand or fall."—Lord Macaulay (*Lives of the Popes.*)

Science is simply from the Latin word *Scientia*, which means *Knowledge* reduced to system under general facts or principles.

*Fact* we know is solid, and is the very essence of veracity. But *Romance* is not Truth. It is the very opposite to it; it is fiction.

Now we maintain that no system, however elaborated, can be placed on the high pedestal described as "Science" unless it be uncontrovertibly based and founded upon Fact.

Therefore all things, whether they be methods, or systems, or mere calculations, without a true factor or foundation to start upon, are really only superficially erected upon hypothesis: and, being without true origin or foundation, we know are not only unproven in themselves, but, when such things are in contradiction to the Holy Scriptures, they cannot be more graphically described than as the Scriptures describe them, viz.: "Science falsely so-called."

And this so-called "science" is not true knowledge; it is opposite to Truth.

Nevertheless undivided truth is essential to every individual upon the face of the earth, and not merely a part of it; and so far as we are bound in error we are held in bondage.

If we are thus bound unwittingly, or even unwillingly, we may not suffer condemnation. But in any case we shall suffer loss—and it may be great loss.

It is a disadvantage from an argumentative standpoint, when dealing with atheistic opponents to the Bible and its

inspiration, if we are not equipped so as to be able to defend it from every possible point of view.

But alas ! the world of children, in all sorts of schools, are taught to regard Modern Scripture-contradicting "Science," so far as the whirling globe theory is concerned, as *infallible* ; while the Bible Cosmogony is set down as being *very fallible* ! Frequently do I repeat this sad fact, but I desire to do so in the spirit of *Phil. iii. 1.*

Some men assert that they have "more evidence in favour of their so-called science than the teachings of Moses ;" and infidels assume that "Moses can be shown to be caught red-handed in ignorance and error ;" and they ask derisively : "What shall we think of the Christ who quoted and referred to Moses as an authority ?"

But Jesus, the Christ, who stated when He was before His earthly judge, Pontius Pilate, that He had come forth from the Father, God, to bear witness to the truth, said : "Had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me ; for he wrote of Me. But if ye believe not his writings how shall ye believe my words ?"—*John v. 46, 47.*

Therefore, there can be no variation in replying to the question : What is Truth ?

God's Word is Truth, *i.e.*, The Creator's Word,  
And Jesus Christ is the embodiment of that Word.  
"And the Word was made flesh."

It is an unimpeachable fact that the Bible is as scientifically accurate in its description of Creation, as it is in setting forth Redemption in and through our dear Redeemer.

A well known infidel has said that "Christians are fools," because they place their faith in the Bible in some things while they own it to be fallacious in others. For instance, they accept its offer of "salvation," and rest upon its promises on these lines ; but at the same time they accept the teaching of man with regard to Modern Science, as being more reliable than the Bible, which it flatly contradicts as to the facts of Creation.

We endorse this statement ; therefore let us trace the origin of this Scripture-contradicting "Science," and let us analyze its nature and bearings.

The origin of the Globular theory may be traced and shown to be Pagan. It was introduced into Egypt by the Greek Pythagoras, about 600 B.C. He was a native of Samos, and

a great traveller in his early days. He travelled much in the East. And he imbibed the fallacious idea that the earth and sea together formed a whirling globe, and that the heavenly bodies were other worlds (inhabited). He also accepted the false doctrine of the transmigration of souls, from pagan magicians and Eastern inventors of romance and fiction.

Pythagoras returned to Europe, and introduced these serious errors into his own country; but after a time his party was dispersed, probably through dissent, and he left his native land. He went to Italy, where he met with a warm reception: and there, with a few followers, he collected many disciples and founded a college, and a sect which took the name of Pythagoreans. But ultimately an opposing division besieged and set fire to his College, and many of the Pythagorean students and disciples thus met with an untimely end. And whether Pythagoras escaped himself has never been ascertained.

But the mystical pagan doctrines which he had brought from the East were sown in the two European countries, Greece and Italy; and faith in these pagan fables became widely spread; until Ptolemy, who lived contemporaneously with the early Christians, so scouted and denounced these false ideas, that all belief in the earth's motions, and the transmigration of souls was entirely abandoned for 1,400 years, *i.e.*, until 1,500 A.D., when Copernicus revived the whirling globe theory.

But Copernicus's followers were too hasty in publishing his writings—even before he was himself fully satisfied that the Pythagorean basis on which he had built his calculations rested on a solid foundation. It is stated that his misgivings, caused by dread of censure, were so great that they hastened, if not caused, his death. His most prominent works were published on the very day he died!

Kepler and Galileo took up the hypotheses, followed by one of the greatest, if not *the greatest* mathematician the world has ever produced—namely, Sir Isaac Newton.

However, the wisdom of mortals is no standard measuring-rod of infallibility and Truth, Newton was no logician, and logic formed no part of his composition. Nor did he profess to possess this quality, which is absolutely *essential* to a discerner and founder of true Science.

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Evidently Newton was deficient in this particular. For he spent his whole life in inventing and formulating an elaboration which he called the Solar System, building upon the mythical fallacies which Pythagoras had brought from the East in the first instance; and which had been handed down by Copernicus, Kepler, and Galileo. Without testing the nature of his foundations he accepted the whole fabrication, and took Copernicus's hypotheses all "for granted."

But Kepler was his ideal fancy, or oracle of wisdom!

Thus we may clearly perceive the origin, and manner of establishment of the globular theory; and it is a fact that it is based upon pagan myths, and the nature of its foundations is purely hypothetical, as even Copernicus's own confessions will testify.

He owned that the Pythagorean teaching was founded upon hypothesis, and that it was not "necessary that hypothesis should be true, or even probable."

And again, that "the hypothesis of terrestrial motion was nothing but a hypothesis." The supporters of modern astronomy either forget or ignore the self-condemning confessions of the founders of the globe theory, and they also close their eyes to its fabulous nature.

Of course it is highly probable that Copernicus knew where Pythagoras had learned this Arabian Nights-like story of the globe theory, and kindred fallacies, which were simply the outcome of the wildest and most ungodly imaginations of ungodly men. And it appears that, but *too late*, he to some extent realized that his writings were based merely upon falsehoods invented in the far east by mystically diseased heathen minds and practitioners of magic.

Lord Macaulay's pronounced words, at the head of this chapter, are true: "The truth of the religion of any people may be tested by its cosmogony." We go further and say that **THE VERACITY OF THE BIBLE MAY BE TESTED BY ITS COSMOGONY.** Let us therefore apply this test, and let us settle the question whether we shall have to write at the end of these pages, "The Romance of the Bible," or "The Romance of Science."

Of course all thoughtful Christians will be able to state assuredly that it will be the latter.

Having traced the origin of the whirling globe theory, let us now analyze its nature and its bearings by the dictates

of Reason, governed by the unimpeachable claims of the Holy Scriptures.

If we only allow our reason and observation to act apart from the prejudices of our early training there is not a single fact in all Nature which goes in opposition to the teaching of the Bible, but, on the contrary, all the practical experiments that have ever been made, go unmistakably to prove that the Bible is as scientifically accurate when it states that God "hath fixed the earth on its basis that it shall not be removed for ever," as it is in setting forth the promise of Eternal Life and Re-Creation in and through our Lord, Jesus the Christ.

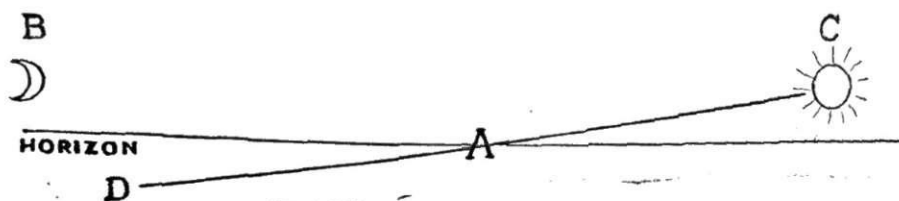
In connection with the Newtonian theory the first thing of which we are informed is that the Earth is a "planet," and that it is one of a group of orbs which circle round the sun, and hence are called the "Solar System." If a reason for such a conclusion is asked for, the only attempt ever made to satisfy the enquirer is entirely unsatisfactory and unenlightening. They tell us that as the sun, the moon, and the planets are globular, therefore the earth must be globular. But this is contrary to the teaching of the Bible, which states that the earth is "fixed," and that the heavenly bodies were made to give light to our earth, and to divide the light from the darkness, and to rule over the day and over the night. Also the true order of Creation is given in the Second Commandment, which states that Heaven is *above*, the Earth *beneath*, and water *under* the Earth.

These statements from Holy Writ, which agree with the evidence of our God-given senses, and by which we behold the fact that the Bible account of Creation is true, precludes the possibility of our acceptance of the unscriptural and wildly romantic teaching presented to us by modern scientists.

Again, we used to be told that ships having sailed round the world proved it to be a globe, but, as I have already shown, this circumnavigation "proof" has been exploded.

It also seems that the "shadow of the earth upon the Moon" proof is on its last legs; and we hope ere long to see the open admission that the periodical lunar eclipse (even as it has been admitted regarding circular sailing) is "no proof of the earth's globularity" printed in books for instructing the young. For at last our opponents are

*beginning* to realize that the fact that the sun and the moon having been both seen above the horizon at the time when a lunar eclipse occurred, proves, even from their own standpoint, that it is *not* the shadow of the earth which causes the so-called eclipse of the moon, as the following diagram will show :



If the sun and moon have ever been seen above the horizon at the same time during an eclipse of the moon, it is a proof that it is not the shadow of the earth which eclipses the moon. Let A be the earth and its horizon, and let B be the moon, and C the sun. Now it is evident that any shadow cast by A could not fall upon B but would fall upon D, because shadows always fall directly opposite to the light, and as the light comes from C to A the shadow from A could not fall upon B but must be cast towards D. Therefore an eclipse of the moon under such conditions proves that the earth cannot be a globe.

We, planists, cannot for a moment admit that it is the shadow of the earth which is cast upon the moon, for we deny that the earth is a heavenly body. We may, or may not be able to say what this shadow is with certainty, but we are not above saying that "how" or "why" God darkens or eclipses the moon may be as "inexplicable a mystery to us as is the growth of a blade of grass." Our Lord's words regarding the Holy Spirit, when He said: we "cannot tell whence it cometh, or whither it goeth, and so is every one that is born of the Spirit," should bring us to remember that God has not yet revealed unto us the "whys" and the "wherefores" of all things.

To proceed with our cursory glance at the nature and bearings of the Romance of Modern Science: regarding the earth's supposed motions, we cannot enquire into the proofs of these motions for the simple reason that no real proofs are

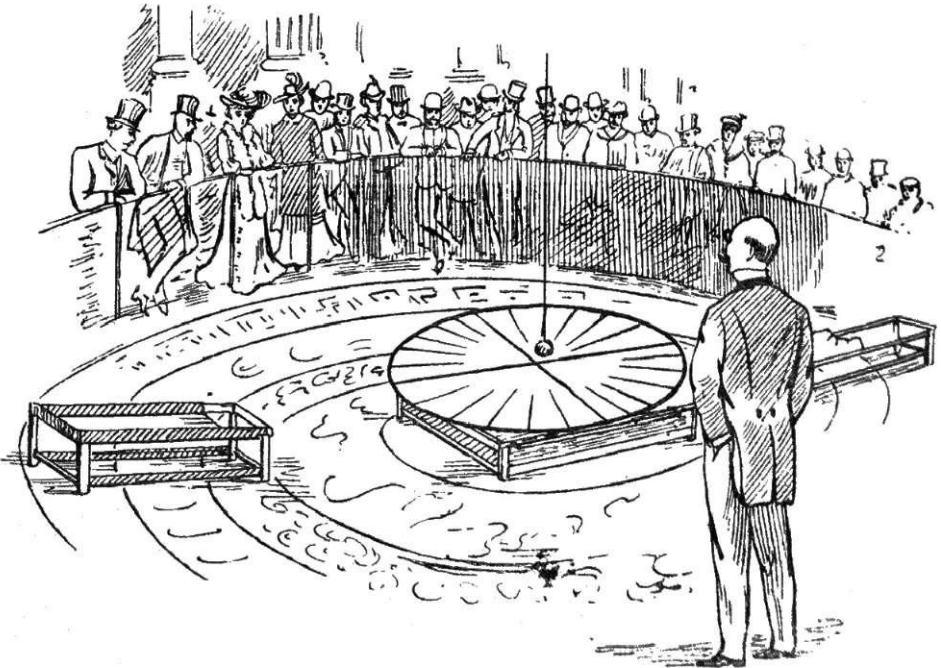


ever offered. We are required by our fellow mortals to believe, in contradiction to the evidence of our senses (under the penalty of being jeered at, and called cranks and "lunatics") that the earth has a number of different motions, the two principal of which being its "axial" and "orbital" movements; and yet, not a single fact or proof is ever offered in support of such far-fetched and unreasonable suppositions save that which globe scientists term "the pendulum proof," which, though no proof at all, we must here discuss.

### THE PENDULUM PROOF

is another romance of science.

This *pendulum*, modern scientists tell us, affords a *visible* proof that we are living on a whirling globe, which, according to a "Work on Science" now before me, is spinning upon its so-called axis at the rate of over 1,000 miles an hour at the equator; and, in addition to other motions, is rushing on an everlasting tour round the sun (the diameter of which is said to be 813,000 miles, and its weight 354,936 times greater than the earth from which it is said to be about 93,000,000 miles distant,) at the rate of over 1,000 miles per minute. Now to prove that the earth really has these motions a



pendulum is suspended at the show ; the showman sets it in motion, and bids the gaping world of thoughtless men and women to "behold a proof" that we are living on a whirling globe which is rushing away through space !

We believe, with all due deference to the pendulum, and its proprietor, that it proves nothing but the craftiness of its inventor ; and we can only describe the show and showman as *deceptions*. A thing so childish is this "pendulum proof" that it can only be described as one of the most simple and ridiculous attempts to gull the public that has ever been conceived.

We will quote a recent newspaper report concerning the pendulum, as follows : "The great pendulum which had been hung by the Astronomical Society of France to demonstrate by its oscillations the rotation of the globe, was to-day set in movement at an inaugural ceremony, presided over by M. Chaumie, Minister of Public Instruction. The President of the Republic was represented by Commandant Roulet, and delegations from the Polytechnic and Normal Schools were also present. The official personages were received by M. Poincare, member of the Institute and of the Bureau of Longitudes, and M. Camille Flammarion, President of the Astronomical Society. They were supported by numerous other savants, mathematicians, astronomers, &c.

"M. Camille Flammarion, after reminding his hearers that it was in 1661 that the demonstration was first made in Florence by Galileo, referred, at considerable length to the memorable experiment made in France by Foucault half-a-century ago, and of which the present was a repetition. M. Chaumie commented on the technical explanations given by the astronomer ; and then, by burning with a match the string which held it, freed the pendulum, which commenced its majestic oscillations, the stylet marking clearly its passage over the sand."

It has been said that the pendulum experiment proves the rotation of the earth, but this is quite impossible, for one pendulum turns one way ; and sometimes, another pendulum turns in the opposite direction. Now we ask does the earth rotate in opposite directions at different places at one and the same time ? We should like to know. Perhaps the experimentors will kindly enlighten us on this point.

The earth's alleged motion became a leading topic among

scientists in the year of the Great Exhibition (1851). The *Literary Gazette* in that year referred to the averment that Galileo had experimented with a pendulum in its simplest form: a weight hanging by a thread to a fixed point. He is said to have discovered the law of isochronous (*i.e.*, equal in time) vibrations. Foucault was induced, by certain reflections, to repeat Galileo's experiment in the cellar of his mother's house in Paris; and was said to have *proved* an immediate and visible demonstration of the earth's rotation. Suppose the pendulum be set moving in a vertical plane from N to S, the plane in which it vibrates would *appear* to be stationary; however, it is said that M. Foucault, the physicist, showed that the plane is itself slowly moving round the fixed point as a centre in a direction contrary to the earth's rotation, *i.e.*, with the *apparent* heavens E to W. If a "pointer" be attached to the weight of a pendulum suspended by a long and fine wire, capable of turning round in all directions and nearly in contact with the floor of a room, the line which this pointer appears to trace on the ground, and which may easily be followed by a chalk mark, will be found to be slowly, but visibly, turning round like the hand of a watch dial.

As the result of the foregoing averments it was suggested that further observations should be carried out, and accordingly we note that:

"A number of prominent scientists and literateurs of Paris were invited to see the earth revolve; but *what they saw was the pendulum move.*"

"There is an actual, observable, and measurable deviation of the plane of oscillation; the pendulum (not the floor—not the earth)—moves. But a diurnal revolution does produce the deviation; *it is the revolution of the heavens.*"

"The solar sweep completes the cycle of vibration of the pendulum in 24 hours."

I have no faith in the general tenets of the paper from which the above has been taken. However, it was forwarded to me, and I would now remind my readers (as I am apt to remind my hearers) that at times we find truth asserting itself where we least expected it to exist. Yet the truth comes out sometimes, and (as the writer owns) what the people saw was the movement of the pendulum; but what the astronomers wished them to see was the movement of the earth.

It is a forlorn hope !

The pendulum experiment was attempted some years ago with most unique apparatus by an uncle of the present Viscount Cross, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., at his residence on the Quantock Hills, near the spot where Julius Cæsar pitched his camp, after he began his invasion of Britain, 55 years B.C., making use of a Latin exclamation, signifying : "How much can be seen from this spot !" The abbreviated Latinism, "Quantum ab-hoc," in after years suggested the place-name, "Quantock."

Here, when electricity as an illuminant had not been utilized, Mr. Cross encircled his orchard with electric wires and electrified the fruit trees in such a way that the produce was raised 50 per cent. in value. (I personally believe that electricity and magnetism are very prominent factors in the mechanism and conditions of the universe.) Though Mr. Cross was in advance of the age he could not accept the theory that the earth moves at the rate of 19 miles per second.

Before accepting the Foucault pendulum deduction he determined to carry out the experiment for himself—choosing the closing days of the year when (according to what we have been taught) the yearly cycle and the earth's "turn over" are completed, and another annual cycle and "turn over" begin again. The period of watching, and taking notes of the observations, extended over a week, and the only result was a slight declination from the exact horizontal position towards the pointer.

In the last named experiment a gravimeter was used for ascertaining what scientists designate specific gravity—the globe pendulum being attached thereto by means of the horizontal and attachment bar.

A trocheameter was used for the purpose of registering and determining the direction of the circuit in which the pendulum might move, the combined prismatic compass and clinometer being used in connection with the spirit-level, the arrangement being so requisitioned in order to accentuate a desiderated tremulous motion of the earth.

With all the *apparati* referred to in the foregoing, it was evident that if the earth rotates 19 miles in a second, a very perceptible agitation would have been observable, instead of a temporary declination, in all probability caused by the cross-bar arrangement being hung slightly out of the perpendicular. At the close of the experiment Mr. Cross said :

"I have found no proof, by actual observation, that the earth moves round the sun. I have not seen the earth move."

The astronomers would give a great deal to be able to exhibit the motion of the earth. They should know they cannot prove such motion; and they should refrain from trying to make the unwary believe they see that motion indirectly in the motion of a swinging pendulum. Such procedure clearly shows that they are hard pressed for convincing evidence when they resort to fallacious proofs.

The pendulum performance might fitly be compared to "The live lion stuffed with straw" show.

If the earth had the terrible motions attributed to it, there would be some sensible effects of such motions. But we neither feel the motion, see it, nor hear it. And how people can stand watching the pendulum vibrate, and think that they are seeing a proof of the motion of the earth, almost passes comprehension. They are, however, brought up to believe it, and it is thought to be "scientific" to believe what the astronomers teach. This kind of belief is well defined by Mark Twain's school-boy, who said, "Faith is believing what you know ain't so." But when men professing to be Christians believe such fallacies, which they know to be not only contrary to the testimony of our senses, but contrary to the Word of God, we cannot but grieve to think how they have been misled to put more faith in what is called "science" than in the statements of God's Word and the evidence of their God-given senses. —

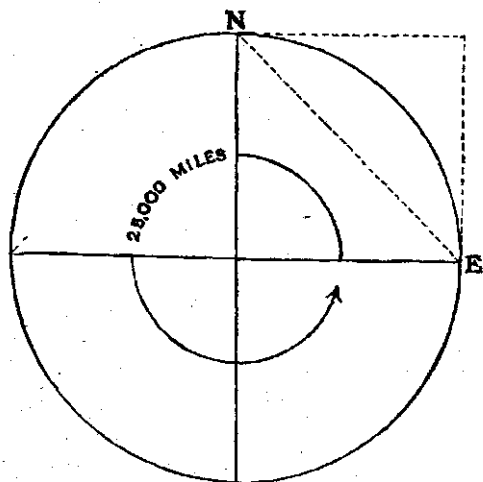
It is all the more sad when a writer like the editor of *Past and Future*, who in some things upholds Bible teaching, goes out of his way to tell us that his astronomy is not that of the Bible, but that of the astronomers, which contradicts Holy Writ. I pray that the time is not far distant when all Christians will learn the unreasonableness of not believing in the evidence of their own God-given senses, and in the Word of God, their Creator, regarding His own account of His own Creation.

All the Jews ought also to believe in the Mosaic account of Creation and in the Word of the Lord delivered to them through Moses. We regret that they have not the additional evidence through Jesus the Christ, who endorsed the teaching of Moses and the Prophets. For alas! they have not yet nationally accepted the Lord of Life as their Redeemer.

Therefore, earnestly beseeching both Christians and Jews to discard *The Romance of Science*, I will, before leaving this part of the subject, ask: If the Earth moves, how is it that the motion cannot start a pendulum swinging—if it is stationary to begin with? There surely ought to be no such thing anywhere as a stationary pendulum.

\* \* \* \* \*

The fallacy of the globular idea is brought into bold relief and made vividly palpable if we picture a man having taken a journey upon this supposed "globe" from N to E, which is estimated to be a distance of about 6,250 miles. According to the hypothecated globular theory it will be seen that the voyager will have fallen over 3,900 miles—the fall being from North to East. This, on a perfect sphere, represents about  $\frac{2}{3}$ -ths of the quoted distance. From N to S this huge fall would be further accentuated, and would thus illustrate the fallacious nature of the globular hypothesis.



THE "THREE POLES" TRICK.  
A CANAL EXPERIMENT.

As the very foundation of modern astronomy rests on the assumption that we are living on a whirling globe, all sorts

of devices are resorted to to support the idea of the earth's sphericity.

After having demolished some of the best "proofs" it is surely not necessary to examine and review every statement offered in support of this modern and absurd fallacy. But we will briefly refer to one or two others before going on to examine the question of the earth's supposed motions.

We are informed that the earth's curvature could be "proved" by three poles placed in a straight line; and such an experiment was tried in a noted instance upon the Bedford Canal, Cambridgeshire. Our examination of this "proof" may throw some light upon the "trick" which was then supposed to win a wager.

We shall, however, quote from Mr. Gregory's book, published in 1892, p. 110.

"If three poles of exactly the same height be placed in a line the middle one always appears higher than the other two outer ones. Let three poles be fixed in a line with their tops cut off at exactly the same height above some level surface (level mind you!), such as the surface of a canal, then, if a telescope is sighted along the first to the third pole the top of the middle pole *will* appear above the line joining the tops of the two outer ones. The cause of this is the curvature of the Earth's surface, and if the experiment can be repeated (why cannot it?) in various parts of the Earth, and ("if") it was found that the curvature was everywhere the same, this *would* prove that the Earth's form is globular, and an approximate determination of its size *could* be obtained. It is found that the middle pole rises 8 inches above the line joining the two outer when the distance between each pole is a mile."

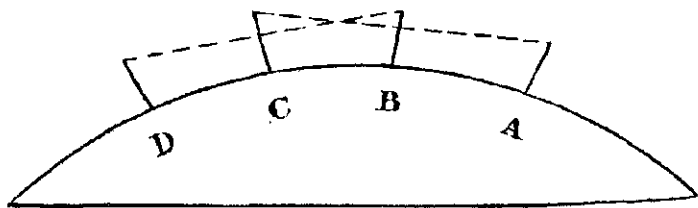
This is a very specious paragraph. It reads well, and an unsuspecting reader might easily be misled by it. But let us examine it a little, and it will be "found to be wholly hypothetical."

The writer of the paragraph quoted does not say that such an experiment *had* been tried and that the result *was* found to be what he said it "would" be if so tried. But in the style of most modern astronomers he jumps from the subjunctive, or hypothetical, mood to the positive, or indicative mood, and says: "If" three equal poles "be placed in a line," meaning I suppose in a *straight* line, "the middle one *always* appears higher than the other two outer ones." Of course "if the middle pole *is* higher, and if it be left in its position, it "always" will appear so; but this is not what Mr. G. meant to say. We may guess his meaning though his words do not express it. But were he to condescend to give particulars as to time and place others might try the

same experiment, and the trick might be found out. But we think we can expose it as it is.

Three poles have to be "fixed in line with their tops cut off at exactly the same height above some level surface." Now, mind! their tops must be "cut off." Good! It is, therefore, self-evident that if the equal poles are fixed on a "level surface" at "exactly the same height," one pole cannot be higher than another; not even 8 inches. If they appear otherwise the poles could not have been fixed at "exactly the same height"! Yet the writer says: "If a telescope is sighted along the first to the third," the middle pole "will" appear higher. The language is vague. The question is, does it appear higher, or does it not. Our scientist says it "will." Well, we shall see soon whether it "will" or no; though 8 inches in a mile cannot appear much.

In the meantime we ask, what does he mean by placing the telescope "along the first" pole? This pole, like the others, is upright, and perpendicular to the horizon; how then can the telescope be sighted "along" the top of it? This is where the trick comes in! If you remove the first pole and put the telescope in its place, so as to "sight" only the other two, or if you rest the telescope on the top of the first pole, the middle one may appear higher than the third; because the third being further away, looks perspective less than the middle one which is a mile nearer. Without asking how there can be a middle pole of two, if you remove the telescope some distance away from the first pole, and look over or along the tops of all *the three poles* then they will be "found" to be in the same straight line. And if the telescope be properly adjusted so as to prevent the "error of collimation" the middle pole will *not* be found 8 inches higher than the other two. This can be tested by experiment; but we shall proceed to prove it by the following diagram.





Let A, B, C, represent three equal poles placed at any convenient and equal distances apart, in a direct line upon the earth's supposed curved surface—A D. Then, according to the theory of our astronomical friend the top of the middle pole (B) will be “found” to be higher than either of the poles at A and C, as in diagram 8.

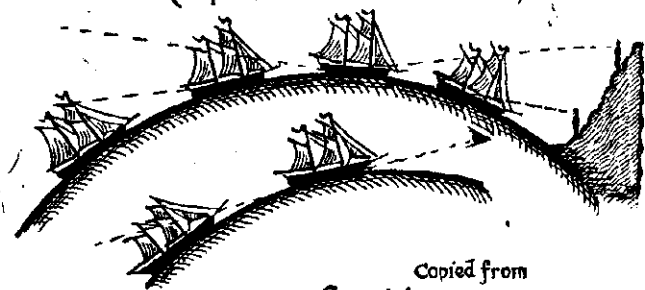
Let us suppose for argument's sake that the pole B has been “found” to be higher than the pole C. Now without removing any of the three poles A, B, C, let us add another pole—D—at exactly the same distance as the others. Ignoring pole A, let the telescope be removed to the pole B, and let it be placed in the same relative position to B as it was to A. Join the tops of B and D to represent their false line of sight. It will now be seen that C is the middle pole of the three, B, C, D; and by the same “line of reasoning” the top of the middle pole—C—will be “found” to be higher than either of the poles D and B. But by this “line of reasoning” we have already “proved” that the pole B was higher than the pole C, and now we “prove” in the same way, that pole C is higher than pole B! That is, the pole B—the middle pole experimented upon, at the same time is both higher and lower than the outer pole (C), which is absurd! Wherefore the pole B is NOT higher than the pole C, but exactly the same height above the same level surface”; and therefore this experiment does *not* “prove that the earth's form is globular.”

So that our astronomical friend has made at least two gross mis-statements here—one as to a fact, and the other as to the conclusion to be drawn from that supposed fact. (1) “The middle pole will (not) appear above the line joining the tops of the two outer ones,” if the experiment be properly conducted; and, (2) “the cause of this is (not) the curvature of the earth's surface,” for the mere assumption of the earth's curvature cannot be the “cause” of anything: that is, of anything found in Nature.

But stop! It may be—yes, it is—the “cause” of otherwise intelligent men making mis-statements, false statements, and misrepresentations in support of an absurd theory, which its founder confessed was “feigned” for quite another purpose than for strict truth and integrity; for, as we have now abundantly shown, the effort to support this superstitious system causes its advocates to depart alike from both.

## FALSE PERSPECTIVE

(Copied from ROYAL READER STANDARD VI)



Copied from  
**SCOTT'S ASTRONOMY (1851) p. 52.**

This is further illustrated by their diagrams of ships at sea, and the way they make them climb over a supposed hill of water.

The foregoing diagrams are specimens of the false perspective given in astronomical works and school books. They are so flagrant as to need no refutation. The first ship is seldom placed on the "top" of the diagram, but a little to one side, so that it will appear to rise first before it is made to descend on the other side of the "offing." The first ship, like the first pole, should be placed on the "top" of the diagram, and the line of sight should be tangential to the place of observation; then instead of a rise over a convex surface we should see the next pole, or ship, descending at once the awful decline. But then this would be to expose the "trick," of which no doubt the better class of astronomers are fully aware; yet none of them have hitherto had the courage to denounce the deception practised by their supporters. This is left for others.

That it may be seen we are not alone in speaking thus plainly, we will quote from *Things to Come*, part of an address by Mr. Thomas A. Edison, originally printed in *Suggestive Therapeutics*, he says:

"There are more frauds in modern science than anywhere else..... Take a whole pile of them that I could name, and you will find uncertainty, if not imposition, in half of what they state as scientific truth. They have time and again set down experiments as done by them, curious out-of-the-way experiments that they never did, and upon which they have founded so-called scientific truths. I have been thrown off my track often by them, and for months at a time. Try the experiment yourself and you will find the result altogether different."

Such is the testimony of a practical scientist and experimenter, and we know his testimony is true as regards theoretical astronomy. We could quote other testimonies, but as we have already given proof that such "frauds" are practised, we think it unnecessary to do so here.

ZETETES.