

# Earth at the Centre of All

## And Man the Chief End and Purpose of the Universe.

The attention of the thinking world will be attracted by a remarkable article in the Fortnightly Review for March, by Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace, entitled "Man's Place in the Universe." The eminent writer has assembled all the latest astronomical and other scientific discoveries and knowledge bearing upon the subject. He deduces therefrom this marvellous theory: First—That the earth or solar system is the physical centre of the stellar universe.

Second—That the supreme end and purpose of this vast universe was the production and development of the living soul in the perishable body of man.

It is impossible in a brief review to do more than indicate the chief features of Dr. Wallace's great contribution to modern thought. He first reminds us that to the early astronomers the earth was the centre of the visible universe, the sun, moon, planets and stars all revolving around it in eccentric and complex orbits. After that as progressive knowledge showed us the utter insignificance of even our solar system, we seem driven to the other extreme. The tendency of all recent astronomical research has been to give us wider views of the vastness and variety and marvellous complexity of the stellar universe, and proportionately, to reduce the importance of our little speck of earth almost to the vanishing point.

Modern sceptics, in the light of this knowledge, point out the irrationality and absurdity of supposing that the Creator of all this unimaginable vastness of suns and systems should have any special interest in so pitiful a creature as man, the degraded or imperfectly developed inhabitant of one of the smaller planets attached to a second or third-rate sun, while that He should have selected this little world for the scene of the tremendous and necessarily unique sacrifice of His Son, in order to save a portion of these miserable sinners from the natural consequences of their sins, is, in their view, a crowning absurdity too incredible to be believed by any rational being.

It must be confessed, he says, that theologians have no adequate reply to this rude attack, while many of them have felt their position to be untenable, and have renounced the idea of special revelation and a Supreme Saviour for the exclusive benefit of so minute and insignificant a speck in the universe.

Dr. Wallace then adduces the evidence from a great body of new facts and observations made within the last quarter of a century that the earth's position in the material universe is special and probably unique. He first asks, Are the stars infinite in number? Then he points out that with every increase of power in telescopes until recent years there had been a proportionate increase in the number of visible stars. There are about 200,000 stars between the first and ninth magnitude, the number at each lesser magnitude being about three times that of the next higher. Now, if this rate of increase were continued down to the seventeenth magnitude, there would be about 1,400,000,000 visible. In the best modern telescopic charts show nothing approaching this number. The latest estimate does not exceed 100,000,000. As the instruments reach further and further into space they find a continuous diminution in the number of stars, thus indicating an approach to the outer limits of the stellar universe.

This conclusion is further enforced by the fact that the numerous dark passages in the heavens, where hardly any stars are visible, and those seen, projected on an intensely dark background, continue to present the same features in telescopes of the highest powers as they do in those of moderate size. This could not possibly happen if the stars were infinite in number, or even if they extended in similar profusion into spaces much greater than those which our telescopes can reach, because in that case these dark backgrounds would be illuminated by the lights of millions of stars so distant as to be separately invisible, as in the case of the Milky Way. The only other explanation would be that the star system is penetrated in several directions by perfectly straight tunnels of enormous length as compared with their diameter, in which no stars exist, and this is considered to be so improbable as not to be worthy of consideration.

Dr. Wallace next considers the most striking proof of the limited extent of the stellar universe, which consists in an analysis of the laws of light. He quotes Prof. Newcomb and other physicists, who affirm that if the number of stars were infinite their combined light would be fully equal to the sun at midday, whereas starlight is only one-fourth as powerful as moonlight. This proof, which cannot be elaborated here,

Dr. Wallace regards, when taken in connection with telescopic research, as altogether conclusive of the limited extent of the stellar universe.

The writer then proceeds to discuss in elaborate, fascinating and easily intelligible detail the distribution of the stars in space, the latest knowledge of their movements and, finally, the position in the universe of the solar system. His conclusions are:

"The result so far reached by astronomers as the direct, logical conclusion from the whole mass of facts accumulated by means of powerful instruments of research, which have given us the new astronomy, is that our sun is one of the central orbs of a globular star cluster, and that this star cluster occupies nearly the central position in the exact plane of the Milky Way, but I am not aware that any writer has taken the next step and, combining these two conclusions, has stated definitely that our sun is thus shown to occupy a position very near if not actually at the centre of the whole visible universe, and therefore, in all probability, in the centre of the whole material universe."

"This conclusion no doubt is a startling one, and all kinds of objections will be made against it, yet I am not acquainted with any great inductive result of modern science that has been arrived at so gradually, so legitimately, by means of so vast a mass of precise measurements and observations and by such wholly unprejudiced workers. It may not be proved with minute accuracy as regards the actual mathematical centre. That is not of the least importance, but that it is substantially correct there seems to be no good reason to doubt, and I therefore hold it right and proper to have it so stated and provisionally accepted until further accumulations of evidence may show to what extent it requires modification.

"This completes the first part of our inquiry, but an equally important part remains to be considered: Our position in the solar system itself as regards adaptability for organic life. Here, too, I am not aware that the whole facts have been sufficiently considered, yet there are facts that indicate our position in this respect to be as central and unique as that of the sun in the stellar universe."

It is not possible to follow Dr. Wallace's cogent arguments in detail on the question of the adaptability of other planets for the development of organic life and of the higher forms of intellectual beings. Writers on this subject, he says, have usually been content to show that certain planets may possibly be now in a condition to support life not dissimilar to that upon the earth, but they never have considered the precedent question: Could such life have originated and been developed upon these planets? This is the real crux of the problem, and Dr. Wallace believes that full consideration of the required conditions will satisfy us that no other planet can fulfil them.

Dr. Wallace observes that materialists will object that the want of all proportion between the means and the end condemns the theory that the universe was created for the production and development of man, but he asks if there is any such want of proportion. Given infinite space and infinite time, there can be no such thing as want of proportion, if the end to be reached were a great and worthy one, and if the particular mode of attaining that end were the best or perhaps even the only possible one; he may fairly presume that it was so by the fact that it has been used and has succeeded.

Dr. Wallace's conclusion is: "The three startling facts that we are in the centre of a cluster of suns and that that cluster is situated not only precisely in the plane of the Milky Way, but also centrally in that plane, can hardly now be looked upon as chance coincidences without any significance in relation to the culminating fact that the planet so situated has developed humanity. Of course, the relation here pointed out may be a true relation of cause and effect and yet have arisen as the result of one in a thousand million chances occurring during almost infinite time; but, on the other hand, those thinkers may be right who, holding that the universe is a manifestation of mind and that the orderly development of living souls supplies an adequate reason why such a universe should have been called into existence, believe that we ourselves are its sole and sufficient result, and that nowhere else than near the central position in the universe which we occupy could that result have been attained."

Sister — "You must remember, Tom, that they have only one daughter." Tom — "Well, I only want one."

# SHUBENACADIE'S FAMOUS CURE; STORY OF ALICE M. PARKER

### How Bright's Disease was Vanquished by Dodd's Kidney Pills.

### Mother of the Girl Tells the Story in Full.

### Terrible Struggle With Most Deadly of Kidney Diseases.

### Step by Step the Monster was Driven Back Till Medical Science Triumphed.

From Mail and Empire.

Shubenaçadie, Hants Co., N.S., Feb. 6.—(Special)—This little town, which has been brought out of obscurity and thrust into the broad glare of public notice by the almost miraculous cure of a young girl of Bright's Disease, takes its new-found fame with a sort of mild surprise. All the village knows Alice Maud Parker, all thought that a few months ago she was sick beyond the hope of recovery, that Bright's Disease had her in its clutches, and once that monster had fastened on a victim the only release was death; and all know that to-day she is a comely maiden of fifteen, with health beaming from every feature and speaking in her every movement. And all have heard time and again that this remarkable change was brought about by that old reliable Canadian remedy, Dodd's Kidney Pills. Yet it is with something like surprise that they hear the noise the cure has made in the outside world. The thing that has come as a revelation to the world has come on them day by day, so gradually that they fail to grasp its magnitude.

**BEYOND ALL DOUBT.**

But as to the cure itself. Of that there is no possible doubt. The facts are all easily obtained and can be sworn to, not only by the Parker family, but by a hundred other people who watched the girl gradually sinking into the grave, and saw her snatched from its very mouth.

It was Mrs. T. G. Parker that your correspondent found at home when he called. Mrs. Parker is a bright, intelligent woman, one whose brave and honest face tells that she could act quickly in an emergency, and whose every word and action show her honesty of purpose. Her face brightened when spoken to of her daughter's remarkable case.

"Yes," she said, emphatically, "my daughter had Bright's Disease in its worst stage. Two of the best doctors in this vicinity gave her up to die. Dodd's Kidney Pills cured

her." Asked to begin at the beginning, and tell the complete story of the case, she complied willingly, for she felt, she said, that all the world should know how her daughter escaped from the supposedly fatal Bright's Disease, and that she owed her escape to Dodd's Kidney Pills, and to no other agency.

**THE MOTHER'S STORY.**

"Alice," Mrs. Parker began, "was always a delicate child from her birth. When she was twelve years old she was not any larger than an ordinary child would be at eight years old. But like many delicate children, Alice pulled along as delicate children will, till July, 1900. She was then thirteen years old. On July 7th she was taken seriously ill. Her eyelids swelled till she could hardly see, her legs swelled from her ankles to her knees. I took her to a doctor, and he said she had Bright's Disease, and could not live long. The doctor tended her for about six weeks, but as she grew worse, I stopped the doctor and tried different kinds of patent medicines. But all the time she just got worse and worse. Her sufferings had by this time become so great that I again turned to the doctors. This time I tried another one. He had no hesitation in pronouncing her disease Bright's Disease of the worst kind.

**BELT MEASURED 48 INCHES.**

"By this time Alice was in a terrible state. Her belt in health measured twenty inches. When she was at her worst it was forty-eight inches. Her flesh was hard and looked ready to burst. The doctor, who was a very nice man, said he could not do anything. It looked as if all that was left for my daughter was to go on suffering till death came to her relief.

"She was in this terrible state when she chanced to read some testimonials as to what Dodd's Kidney Pills had done for others. She showed them to me, and I grasped at this last chance to help her, as a drowning man grasps at a straw.

**HOW THE CURE BEGAN.**

"She began taking Dodd's Kidney Pills on November 25th, and before she had finished the first box I could see a change for the better. By December 19th there was a marked improvement in her condition, but there was a large gathering across the small of her back and ready to lance. When it was opened it emitted a quart of matter, besides blood and water. Again we feared for her life, and again the doctor warned me that she might die at any moment. But my faith in Dodd's Kidney Pills had grown, and all through that long winter she took them regularly, and under the treatment continued to gain in strength till by April her back was well, and the swelling had all left her, though her urine when tested was milky and at times it would curdle.

"Still she was vastly improved, and I was greatly encouraged, and continued to give her the Pills till November, when she appeared to be perfectly well and was growing faster than she had done in years."

**A NEARLY FATAL MISTAKE.**

At this point Mrs. Parker nearly made a fatal mistake. She stopped the use of Dodd's Kidney Pills before the disease had been thorough-



ALICE MAUD PARKER.  
Whose remarkable recovery from Bright's Disease has set all Canada talking.

ly cleared out of the system. There could only be one result. The Bright's Disease gradually regained its hold on its victim. "And," said Mrs. Parker, continuing, "to our great surprise, in January, 1902, the swelling came back.

"This time, though, I knew what to do. I sent at once for six boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills. She began at once to take them, and gradually the great monster fell back before the great remedy. By the time she had taken four boxes the swelling began to leave. This time I made no mistake. I kept right on with the treatment till every vestige of the disease had disappeared, till my daughter was given back to me, not as the puny, delicate child she was before her sickness, but as you see her now, a big, strong, healthy girl of fifteen, full of vim and go, ready to hold her own in the struggle of life.

**DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS DID IT.**

"And all this I charge to Dodd's Kidney Pills, and to nothing else. The doctors told me my daughter could not live. When they knew I was giving her Dodd's Kidney Pills they said that if they cured her it would be one of the greatest miracles in the world, for the like had never been in this province or anywhere else. And Dodd's Kidney Pills did cure her. I gave her 74 boxes of them altogether, but they gave her life in return, and I feel that I cannot say enough for Dodd's Kidney Pills."

**THE SUMMING UP.**

This is the story of the famous Bright's Disease cure, as told by the mother of the sufferer herself. There can be no doubt as to the truth of the story. Scores of people corroborate it. The case was thoroughly diagnosed by skilled physicians, who unhesitatingly pronounced it Bright's Disease.

Neither can there be any doubt as to what caused the cure. It was Dodd's Kidney Pills. For, after the doctors had given the patient up for lost, Dodd's Kidney Pills were the only medicine used. The fact remains that Dodd's Kidney Pills have cured Bright's Disease. And if Dodd's Kidney Pills can and do cure Bright's Disease, which is the worst stage of Kidney Disease, how sure must it be that they are a sovereign remedy for those earlier stages of Kidney Disease from which thousands of the Canadian people are suffering.

**PERSONAL POINTERS.**

Notes of Interest About Some Prominent People.

The Emperor of Austria, when there is no Court function to interfere, goes to bed at eight in the evening and gets up at three in the morning.

The oldest soldier in the German army is Bandmaster H. Lenschow, of the 90th Mecklenburg Fusilier Regiment, in garrison at Rostock. He is seventy-three years of age and has seen fifty-three years of service.

As Master of the House the Duke of Portland enjoys a salary of £2,500 a year. A much-appreciated perk of the post is that the occupant may have the use of the royal carriage and pair, a coachman and footman, and a horse for riding purposes whenever he pleases.

King Carlos of Portugal, who is amongst the most expert shots in Europe, exercises his skill in a remarkable way. With his rifle in hand he takes up a position by a lake in his palace grounds, and as the fish rise to the surface of the water he fires at them, rarely failing to hit them with his deadly bullets.

It is not often one finds a confirmed vegetarian among our great public workers, but Mrs. Bramwell Booth told me recently (says a London writer) that she had been a vegetarian for fifteen years, and had found it possible to maintain her health through all the strain of an exceptionally busy life without recourse to meat. Her husband, Mr. Bramwell Booth, is also a vegetarian, and the veteran General Booth may almost be considered one, considering the small amount of meat he eats.

A Budapest paper reports another romance of the Austrian Imperial

family. The Archduke Eugene, brother of the Queen-Regent of Spain, it says, has fallen in love with the pretty daughter of a petty tradesman, and has resolved to renounce his title and birthright and marry her. Archduke Eugene is 39, has the rank of a general, and commands an army corps in the Tyrol. He is of gigantic stature, is extremely handsome, and is frequently seen in the streets of Vienna, where his free-and-easy manners have made him a popular favorite.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson, the actor, commenced his career as an artist. On leaving Charterhouse he visited Rome, turning his attention to English classics, whilst all his spare time was given to the brush. When seventeen he returned to London and entered the Academy as a student. There he remained for three years. His first appearance on the stage was in a piece called "Marie Stuart." In this he made a hit. Finding it would take a long while before he was able to earn enough with his brush, he reluctantly threw over his painting for the stage, with fortunate results for himself.

Mr. Pierpont Morgan is 6 feet high, burly, red-faced, and fond of good living. He smokes big, fat, black cigars, made expressly for him, which he facetiously calls "smokelets." Price as Mr. Morgan's time is, he is generally willing to suspend business activity to look at a new book, a picture, or a jewel. Like President Roosevelt, Mr. Morgan is impetuous, excitable, and always desperately in earnest, but his judgment is invariably sound. Children are pretty good judges of a man's disposition, and they love this crusty old financier. He reads novels on the way to church, and when he gets there he passes round the box for the offertory.

One of the most curious experiences related by Johannes Wolff, the famous violinist, refers to the occasion on which he first played before a Brazilian audience. He was considerably surprised to find that all the men were throwing their hats at him. A perfect shower of hats of all shapes and sizes and conditions fell upon the stage, and in dismay, not knowing what was the inner meaning of this peculiar demonstration, Mr. Wolff turned from the stage. Immediately each male member of the audience rushed on to the platform to secure his hat. In the artist's room he was told that hat-throwing was the curious method adopted by the Brazilians of showing their appreciation of his playing.

**EYES AT DIFFERENT AGES.**

The Stockholm Museum possesses an interesting collection of eyes taken from human beings at different ages, which are cut across in such a way as to exhibit plainly the internal and external eye. It is easy to observe that the eye of a young child is as transparent as water; that of the youth a little less so; in the man of thirty the eye begins to be slightly opaque, in the man of fifty or sixty it is decidedly opaque, and in the man of seventy or eighty it is dull and lustreless. This gradual development of opacity is due to the increase of fibrous tissue and deposit of waste matter in the eye.

"Pa," said little Johnny McSwilinan, "here's a piece in the paper about 'Parasites.' What are they?" "Parasites, my boy, are people who live in Paris. I think you ought to know that, and you in the 'Third Book.'"