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About Astronomy. I saw and heard him as I was going home the other evening. A big telescope was pointing heavenward from the public square...

The noble young man removed his hat, placed his eye to the instrument, a cloth was thrown over his head and the astronomer continued...

"Behold the bright star of Venus! A sight of this star is worth a thousand dollars to any man who prefers education to money."

"You are now looking at Uranus," replied the professor. "Uranus is 97,502,304 miles distant from the earth, and yet I warrant that it doesn't appear any farther away to you."

"Give it to him! Whack him back! Go in, old woman!" shouted the young man, slapping one leg and then the other.

"That's it! Got him by the hair now! I'll bet fifty that she'll lick!"

"Whoop! that's it! now she's got him; purtiest family fight I ever saw!" cried the roving man as he moved back and slapped his hands.

"Gentlemen, we will pause here for a moment. When a man tells you after this that the planet of Saturn is not inhabited, tell him that you know better—that it is not only inhabited, but that the married couples up there have family fights the same as on this mundane sphere."

"I see two fellows in a small room, smoking cigars and playing euchre!" was the prompt reply.

"Saturn is about 85,000,000 miles from this town," continued the astronomer, "and yet the insignificant sum of ten cents has enabled the progressive young man to learn for himself that the celestial beings enjoy themselves pretty much as we do in this world."

The instrument was changed again, and as the interest of the crowd increased the people began to press nearer the professor said: "Now behold the planet Mars, the second largest planet in the heavens. It is 25,161,354 miles from here, and appears to the naked eye to be nothing more than a bright star, and yet this young man tells you what he sees."

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Half a mile up the street in the top story of a big building was an evening school. The telescope got the range of one of the windows, and the young man climbed leaped from the stool as he shouted, "Hokey to alligators!"

"It has been asserted by college astronomers that the planet of Mars is not inhabited," remarked the astronomer in quiet, cutting tones. "Some of them puffed up with their arrogance, have called me a swindler and have claimed this instrument, which was constructed for me by order of the late Emperor Napoleon at a cost of \$75,000, but let this observing young man tell you what he sees."

"Gentlemen, I am no blow-hard," said the professor in husky tones; "I do not want to say what this telescope can do. You have the word of one of your fellow-townsmen, and I do not believe that any of you will dispute him. I have been called a swindler, gentlemen, because I go around the country tearing from astronomy the veil of mystery with which so-called professors, drawing heavy salaries, seek to cover it."

"There's a feller sitting on a bench beside a girl. I saw him pinch her ear, and she hit him with a book. Durra my buttons, but she's all-fired purty."

"Gentlemen, I am no blow-hard," said the professor in husky tones; "I do not want to say what this telescope can do. You have the word of one of your fellow-townsmen, and I do not believe that any of you will dispute him. I have been called a swindler, gentlemen, because I go around the country tearing from astronomy the veil of mystery with which so-called professors, drawing heavy salaries, seek to cover it."

"You are now looking at Uranus," replied the professor. "Uranus is 97,502,304 miles distant from the earth, and yet I warrant that it doesn't appear any farther away to you. Will you be kind enough, my friend, to tell this crowd what you see?"

"Give it to him! Whack him back! Go in, old woman!" shouted the young man, slapping one leg and then the other.

"That's it! Got him by the hair now! I'll bet fifty that she'll lick!"

"Whoop! that's it! now she's got him; purtiest family fight I ever saw!" cried the roving man as he moved back and slapped his hands.

The professor covered up his instrument slowly and carefully, picked up and unlocked a satchel which had been lying near his feet, and then softly said: "Gentlemen, we will pause here for a moment. When a man tells you after this that the planet of Saturn is not inhabited, tell him that you know better—that it is not only inhabited, but that the married couples up there have family fights the same as on this mundane sphere."

"I see two fellows in a small room, smoking cigars and playing euchre!" was the prompt reply.

"Saturn is about 85,000,000 miles from this town," continued the astronomer, "and yet the insignificant sum of ten cents has enabled the progressive young man to learn for himself that the celestial beings enjoy themselves pretty much as we do in this world."

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Every Week for September.

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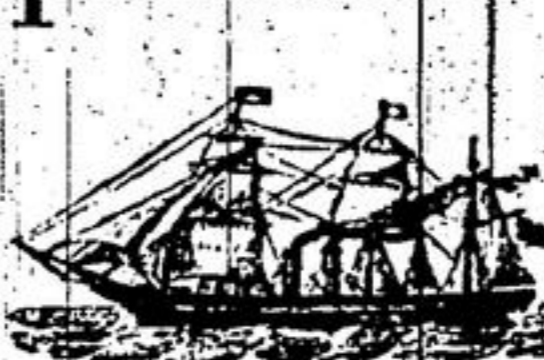
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D. McNAIR, Acton, July 1st, 1875—Gm.

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JAMES MATTHEWS, Acton, September 1, 1875.

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