

and at night she was about to land marines to protect the consulate, when the news spread, soldiers directly crowded the beach and the boats of the *Superb* were ordered to keep off. The proportion of Arabs killed in the late crisis was insignificant. The fleet is almost a source of danger. When the French stationed a vessel opposite their consulate to receive refugees, she was immediately surrounded by Egyptian steam launches which remained, and a collision may occur at any moment.

"ARE THE WORLDS INHABITED?"

"Are the stars inhabited?" is a question that has often been asked both by the general public and the men of science. No definite answer has been given by astronomers, who are supposed to know more than any one else about the worlds that move in their orbits and make beautiful the wondrous vault of heaven. This question occasionally arouses more than usual interest, and every now and again some discovery or change in an accepted theory concerning the heavy bodies brings it forward with renewed desire for a satisfactory reply.

The supposed discovery of canals on the planet Mars, made by the Director of the Royal Observatory at Milan, has caused inquiries of this nature. And the observation of the total eclipse of the sun, made on the 17th of May in the clear atmosphere of Upper Egypt, has added to the interest on this subject, for it has unexpectedly disclosed the existence, long denied, of an atmosphere to the moon. To the question, is the moon inhabited? astronomers have returned a definite negative answer. It has been claimed that the moon is a dead world, without atmosphere, without vegetation, without moisture, and consequently without inhabitants. Scientists tell the story of the moon's decadence as positively as if they had seen it dry up and die. They offer as to the time it took to breathe its last and the date of its final doom, but of the fact, they are as positive as a heretic-burning theologian was of his dogmas at the time of the Inquisition, and any one who doubted it a couple of weeks ago would have been viewed by them with pity if not in anger.

But if the announcement now made proves correct—the French observers seem to have no doubt about it—the theory of a defunct moon is all moon-hine, a sort of scientific lunacy. The calculations and deductions of Prof. Proctor, who told us in this city that the moon was subject to such scorching heats and intense frosts, because of the absence of an atmosphere, that no life of any kind could endure the temperature for a moment, were all baseless and without value. The spectroscope and the telescope, it seems, both bear witness now to the error of the astronomers. If there is a lunar atmosphere there may be lunar vegetation, lunar animals, and many more than one "man in the moon." Perhaps there are canals there as well as in Mars, and other works of an industrial and commercial character, likely to be constructed if the satellite contains a branch of the family of man domiciled on Mother Earth.

Professor Langley's experiments on the summit of Mount Whitney, Colorado, 15,000 feet above the sea level have resulted in conclusions that will, if correct, modify the established opinions concerning the temperature of planets remote from the sun. It appears that the earth's atmosphere is adapted to the absorption of certain rays of the solar orb—the dark or "invisible" rays of the solar spectrum. These, according to Professor Langley, are the chief source of vegetable and animal life, and also of those meteorological disturbances which agitate this planet. Now it has generally been supposed that the remotest planets received such an extreme minimum of the solar heat, that they were not adapted to life. But it is quite possible that their atmosphere is of such a nature as to absorb and retain those vital rays, while only receiving an attenuated sunshine, and thus, although at such immense distances from the grand centre of radiation, may obtain all the essential constituents to vegetable, animal and human existence.

There is another thing that those scientists who pronounce certain

planets unfit for the support of human life do not seem to fully consider. That is, the possibility that men and animals and planets may exist there with constitutions different in some respects from those of this earth, and so able to endure the peculiar conditions existing on those planets. The inhabitants of the arctic and equatorial regions of earth with their respective fauna and flora, flourish under widely differing conditions and temperatures, and the varying situations of planets near to or remote from the sun may be such as are suited to varieties of men, and animals, and plants, similar in some respects but differing in others to the families of their kindred kingdoms on terra firma or in the briny sea of this little globe.

One thing is very sure, that notwithstanding the supposed certainties of so-called "science," the established doctrines of one age are often entirely upset by the discoveries and deductions of another, and that which is looked upon as proven to-day may be shown to be erroneous to-morrow. And the shining worlds that revolve in their mighty spaces, each performing its own part in preserving the equilibrium of the system to which it belongs, are just as likely to be the homes of human beings, part of the family of the Universal Father, as to be mere empty masses turning upon their axes and traveling around the sun without intelligent use or purpose.

On this subject the Latter-day Saints have the advantage of a little definite information. It comes from the source of all true intelligence. It has been communicated by Him who made the worlds; who knows their times and seasons, their elements and constitution, their age and destiny; who counts their numbers, calls their names, and who comprehends and discerns every particle which enters into their composition. In a vision given to the Prophet Joseph Smith in company with Sidney Rigdon, at Hiram, Portage County, Ohio, Feb. 14, 1832, a glimpse of the object and purpose of the worlds was given. They saw the Son, even Jesus Christ, on the right hand of the Father, and they heard the heavenly voice bearing record that He is the Only Begotten of the Father, and

"That by him and through him and of him the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God."

In the *Pearl of Great Price* will be found an account of the word of the Lord to Moses and also to Enoch and to Abraham, revealing many things concerning the worlds and their creation. Enoch saw the Zion of God—the pure in heart, which He had taken "from all the creations" which He had made. The revelation on celestial marriage also shows the purpose of God in the formation of the worlds, to be peopled by His children for their experience and His own glory. By these and other manifestations we have learned that the starry worlds are framed as abodes for the offspring of the Universal Father, in the various grades of their progress towards the perfection of Him who is the Author of their being the Creator and Ruler of all.

There are bodies celestial, and bodies terrestrial, and bodies tellurian. And the glory of each is peculiar to itself. There are worlds adapted to the conditions of individuals in either of these conditions, with the varieties and grades of each degree. Some are able to dwell in a glory which to the people of this yet undeveloped world would be a consuming fire. Some abide in outer darkness, banished alike from the presence and knowledge of the Almighty and from the potent energy that brings forth light and life and beauty in their multifarious forms. But in and through and around all these things is the eternal uncreated essence, which is the source of all intelligence and law and glory, even the spirit and power of Him who sits upon His throne in the bosom of eternity, in the midst of all things.

This little globe is but one small child in the great family of the creations, and its millions of inhabitants but a simple few among the countless myriads of the kingdoms and glories, which are multiplied throughout the dominions of the Almighty to such a vast extent that figures fail to touch the beginning of their numbers, and the most vivid imagination cannot conjure up the extent and variety of their existence throughout the boundless domains of illimitable space.

The worlds are inhabited—millions of them. They form the abode

of the offspring of Deity. Birth-places, probation planets; prison-houses; spirit spheres; paradises; gehennas; homes for the resurrected; glorified suns for perfected and celestialized intelligences; all moving in their respective orbits, governed by fixed laws adapted to their condition and that of their inhabitants. And the earth is but a tiny speck of dust in the whirling cloud of worlds wherein reigns the Mighty One, controlling all and shaping the destinies of all to accomplish His own grand designs for the education and exaltation of His obedient children, in which is the perpetuation of His eternal glory.

Correspondence.

PLAIN CITY,
May 31st, 1882

Editor Deseret News:

Trusting that a few lines from our Garden City will be of interest to the many readers of the NEWS, I will say that we are still following the even tenor of our ways, plowing and sowing and sometimes hoeing.

On Saturday night our Musical and Dramatic Company performed to a large and appreciative audience a drama entitled "The Poacher's Doom," and the laughable farce of "John Smith." The object was to raise means to assist two of our young men who were going on missions to the Southern States—Bros. George Bramwell and William S. Geddes. They left Ogden on Tuesday the 30 inst., and were escorted from Plain City by our brass band. They go with the good wishes and prayers of many friends and neighbors for their success while absent and for their safe return to their homes and families.

The health of the people of our burg is good; our crops are as promising as can be expected considering the unfavorable weather. We don't blame anybody in particular for the weather. Some think it is the weather clerks, while others suppose it must be the Edmunds bill, but it certainly can't be the latter, for your correspondent heard a citizen assert that the bill had burst, and was the cause of that curious phenomenon mentioned in a former issue of the NEWS.

Still wishing success to our pioneer paper, I am as ever,

ROBBIN.

A GRATEFUL "GENTILE."

MOUNT PLEASANT, Sanpete Co.,
Utah, May 31, 1882.

Editor Deseret News:

Sir, Will you kindly allow me, an outsider, and stranger in your Territory, to express through your valuable journal my earnest and heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the many acts of kindness I have received from your people since I came amongst them. I should most respectfully mention in this connection Mr. Lyman Wood, of Springville. Mr. Harvy Moore, of Payson, Mr. Hartley, of Nephi, Bishop Irons, of Moroni, and especially would I name Bishop Seely, of this City, and his kindhearted family, whom my dear wife loved so much, and all those kind friends who attended to her in her sickness, who watched and prayed over her while life remained; who were with her in her last moments, smoothed her last pillow, and closed her eyes in death, and who, with exquisite taste and skill, prepared a stranger for her last resting place, the grave. Such kindness as this Mr. Editor, I have seldom seen, and from what I had heard and read did not expect to find in Utah, and I bear testimony that in this people, every where evil spoken of, I have been happily disappointed.

Very respectfully yours,
S. C. PRATT.

Two Chinamen were so severely beaten last night, at 623, Sixth avenue, New York, they had to be conveyed to the hospital.

A Truckman lost something on the side-walk, and, procuring a lantern, began poking about in the snow in search of it. "And phwat are yez lookin' afther?" asked an Irishman who was passing. "Well, Pat," replied the searcher, "I've lost my character and am trying to find it." "Begorra, thin," said the Irishman, "but yez must be a fool to look for so shmall a thing as yer character wid such a dim foight as that."

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