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Thousand Miles An Hour

Man Stands Still and Travels Faster Than He Can Imagine.

This seems a preposterous picture. It shows the earth with houses and trees on it, "upside down," and "below" the earth you see the moon, crescent in shape because of the earth's shadow.

The striking feature is man hanging to the limbs of trees, head toward the earth, struggling to prevent falling off into endless space.

The idea of this picture is to make us realize how wonderfully we live and develop on this earth, how little our minds grasp the real conditions under which we travel on through endless space.

If it were not for the power of gravitation which holds us to the earth as it turns around, every one of us would be obliged to hang onto something, as this man hangs to the tree top to avoid "falling off."

We all know that human beings on the other side of the earth, directly under our feet, have the soles of their feet pointing "upward" and their heads "hanging down." We know that twelve hours from now they will be "on top," as we call it, where we are now, and we shall be around "underneath."

If it were not for the law of gravitation that holds everything tight against the earth, including the air we breathe, the earth turning around more than one thousand miles every hour would create for a few minutes a terrific wind that would sweep everything away, and roll the waters of the ocean up onto the earth. After a few minutes the atmosphere would be left behind us, swept back into space; houses, men, and trees would be swept away from the earth with it, and the earth would roll on alone.

But the power of gravitation, which men can calculate exactly, but which they do not understand, holds everything in its place. Our atmosphere is fastened to our earth, remains quietly except for little local winds, like the air inside of a railroad train. The train may run sixty miles an hour, the air in the car stays still.

The sun, in its turn, travels on forever, we know not whither, dragging us with it in the direction of the blue star Vega above our heads. As the sun goes, we travel with it in a spiral like a corkscrew, the sun going ahead and we circling around it, as you might see a mother hen walking across a field, the young chickens running around the mother in circles.

You who read this are a great traveler in infinite space, although our limited sense tells us that we and our earth are standing still.

Every twenty-four hours as the earth turns on its axis you and the house in which you sleep and live travel twenty-five thousand miles, the distance around the earth.

Every year, as the earth goes around the sun, you travel nearly six hundred million miles. A boy ten years old has traveled already SIX BILLION MILES THROUGH SPACE AROUND THE SUN, AND THE LORD ONLY KNOWS HOW MANY OTHER BILLIONS OF MILES THROUGH SPACE, DRAGGED ONWARD BY THE SUN, BOUND ON SOME ERRAND OF ITS OWN.

There is no up and no down in the universe, no top or bottom, no beginning and no end—there cannot be. We might travel on at the rate of six hundred million or six hundred billion miles a year and at the end of a million years we should be no nearer to the end of space than we are now. There IS no end.

And there will be no end of time, and never could have been any beginning of time. Scientists tell you that time is only a figure of speech, an idea invented by man to measure the rate at which events progress. We get our year by dividing into twelve months the period that the earth uses in going around the sun. We divide those months into days, the days into hours, minutes and seconds. But whatever we simple-minded people or the learned scientists choose to call time and space do go on forever. And man, believing in his own immortality, having scientifically demonstrated the immortality of force and matter, believes that he will go on forever, never ending. What a long journey!

Philosophers and poets have talked about "the music of the spheres," suggesting that the great suns and planets as they roll in majestic order express universal harmony in cosmic music, above the hearing of us mortals.

At this suggestion little man laughs, saying, "No, none of that nonsense for me. I play my fiddle or wind my talking machine, and that is music because I hear it."

An amusing creature is man convinced that nothing can exist beyond his understanding.

Amusing is the atheist, who says, "There is NO God, for He has never shown Himself to me to be measured, weighed and tested."

Equally amusing the other man, who says, "There IS a God; I have His exact measure; I know all about Him; I

This Is You



You do not hang to a tree in just this way as the earth turns around. But you would hang in EXACTLY this fashion if it were not for the power of gravitation.

Mr. McCay ingeniously creates this cartoon to illustrate the fact that there is no "up" and no "down" in the Universe through which we roll. "Down" is always under our feet, and "up," as we call it, is always

above our head, although the earth turns around at a speed of a thousand miles an hour, so that twelve hours from now your feet will be pointing just where your head is pointing at this minute.

Compared with you the men in China are hanging head downward and their houses all have the roofs hanging down. To the Chinese it is YOU that hang head downward. Try an experiment with your little finger.

alone am authorized to speak for Him and make promises in His behalf."

The high priest of Mumbo-Jumbo will tell you "Mumbo-Jumbo will do anything I say. Pay me a reasonable fee and I will prove it to you."

He is completely wrong, although profitably safe. The other says, as he whirls through space, glued down by gravity, "There is no God, nothing above me." He also is wrong and foolishly wrong, for he doesn't even make profit out of his error.

Man who trusts to his intellect to decide questions concerning the infinite is deceived even by his own senses, his own nerve, for instance, BY THE TIPS OF THE FIRST TWO FINGERS OF HIS RIGHT HAND. Try this experiment: Cross the fingers on your right hand, the middle finger over the back of the first finger. Take a little ball made of soft bread, or the round head of a hatpin. Put the round object gently against the spot where your two fingers cross, on the finger tips, and roll it around. With your eyes closed you would testify that there were two round objects, when there is only one.

The explanation is simple. The "afferent" nerves tak-

ing information from the outside world into the brain are highly developed in your finger tips.

When you put a small, round object against the spot where the first two fingers are crossed, the middle finger sends word to the brain, "I feel something round;" the first finger sends the same message. If the eyes are kept closed the brain believes what it hears and thinks it has two round objects at the ends of its fingers, when it really has only one.

If the eyes are open, the optic nerve says to the brain: "Don't believe those two fingers—they can only feel, they can't see. I tell you they are both feeling the same object and telling you about it as though it were two."

What the eyes are as teachers of the brain, pure science is as the teacher of man. For a long time on this earth animal life existed without sight, depending upon nerves of feeling exclusively. With all his power Darwin never could explain satisfactorily to himself how the eye and sight were first acquired.

Human beings lived for scores of thousands of years on earth without the light of science. Even now the light is blinding, many turn away from it, preferring the ancient darkness of superstition and self-deceit.

HEARD AND SEEN

By EARL GODWIN.

We MUST have houses. That's plain to be seen. We must have them in Washington and that is as far as my interest goes—but the Washington problem is multiplied by a number equal to the number of cities and towns which have suffered the war time boom, coincident with the war time slackening in house building.

The United States helps farmers buy farms. City folks are just beginning to awaken to the fact that the house problem is bigger than they can handle without gigantic help; and to that end many deep thinking men and women are working out solutions whereby the entire nation can aid the man who MUST have a house to live in.

GEORGE HOLDEN TINKHAM, member of Congress from Boston, is one of the men interested, and has introduced a bill to create a housing bureau. The bill stands a chance of becoming a law. That means that someday there will be a Federal Housing Bureau to finance the owning of American homes by American families. It is something new; and of course for that reason many people oppose it—but that's always the way with new ideas.

Congressman Tinkham has given me an interview on his bill; and it is well worth reading. It will present to you an insight into the enormous depth and breadth of the problem—greater than anyone knows who has not studied the thing.

Says Congressman Tinkham: "Revolutionists and Bolsheviki who desire and intend the destruction of modern society do not own homes. They have no fixed interest in the social order and nothing to protect from destruction.

"The relation between labor and housing is vital. Good living conditions and good housing conditions specially promote better citizenship, increase productive capacity and reduce labor turnover. The desire for a home next to the desire for food is one of the deepest of human instincts. The National Government should interest itself particularly at this time in this great social and industrial problem.

"Under the terms of my bill the proposed bureau will be charged with investigating the housing and living conditions of the industrial population of the United States. The bill provides for the research and publication of information to make economically practicable the elimination of slums, the improvement of living conditions, the reduction of the cost of construc-

tion of dwellings and the financing of extended home building operations without Federal appropriations. It will furthermore assist communities in making available to the utmost extent all existing housing facilities and serve as a clearing house of information on housing and living conditions.

"The Federal Government as a result of its war housing program, in which was expended approximately \$110,000,000 to build homes for industrial workers, has accumulated a vast fund of information and experience in this connection which should be made available to every community in the United States. At the present time no Government bureau has power to make this material available. My bill, if enacted into law, offers the Federal Government the greatest possible opportunity to make practical use of information gathered at a tremendous price in war times. The problem is a national problem and an urban one, due to the rapid expansion of the urban population in the whole United States, which is increasing at a rate three times greater than that of the rural population, 46 per cent of the whole population being urban in 1910 and there being but little doubt that the 1920 census will show more than 50 per cent of our population living in cities. Before the war, due to this rapid expansion, there was a shortage of homes which was greatly augmented by the sudden cessation of building during the war.

"The normal peace time expenditure in the United States for workmen's houses has been estimated at \$1,000,000,000 a year. In 1917 the expenditures for this purpose were only 10 per cent of this amount. This deficit is further being rapidly increased at present by the very high cost of labor and material as well as the difficulty of obtaining mortgage loans. It was estimated some time ago that there was a shortage of more than one million homes in the United States. Every community is seeking the best possible means to relieve a situation more acute today than ever. The National Government has distributed land to homesteaders in the rural districts and has established Federal Land Banks for the financing of the farmer. Many Departments of the Government have bureaus who study and publish information regarding a multiplicity of subjects much less important than the subject of housing and living conditions.

"The United States is thus far practically the only country engaged in the war which has not taken definite steps to relieve the vital housing problem and to study living conditions in urban communities."

HERE AND THERE

"Trousers containing \$40 and other articles of wearing apparel were taken from 911 O street northwest, according to the complaint of George Morgan."

WASHINGTON POST.

George should not carry his overcoat, hat, shoes, etc around in his trousers.

"TIP."

Magie Number.

Congress convened on the nineteenth of May, adjourned on the nineteenth of November, in the year nineteen-nineteen.

Among the brilliant examples of journalistic worth that came in the mail today was one called "Business Chronicle."

It is published in Seattle. On the front page is an article by Edwin Selvin.

It starts out: "What we Americans need just now is plain talk, clear thinking and decisive action."

Here is a sample of the "plain" talk in the next few lines: "The crack of doom is even now reverberating across the valleys of our fatuousness and reaching from the hills of our fancied security."

Sign seen in shoe-shining parlor: "Shoes Shined Inside Today." And they fuss about the price of polish. "PAT."

Can you tell me why the numbers from 1517 to 1525 inclusive are

duplicated on Seventh street northwest?

J. QUINN ESTERLY.

THE GOAT CLUB—Will members please note the club will be CLOSED from NOVEMBER 17th to 24th inclusive for re-decoration.

By order of the Committee, R. C. SMITH, Hon. Secretary.

The above from the London Times. I do not know that there are any out-of-town members; or any Washingtonians among the membership of the club, but it seems eminently fitting that Washingtonians should belong. I know of no community where the General Public belongs to the Goat Club as we do in Washington. Among those who have become goats recently are:

Street Car Riders—paying 7 cent fare and getting no service.

Residents of Trinidad who had no chance to lay before the Government their protest against the refuse disposal plant which now graces the scenery next to Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Water users who pay for two gallons and get one.

In the "Star" the following statement appears in an article on the work of the reclassification commission in Government salaries:

"Of 8,000 appointments made during the first two months of 1919, 4,689 were women and 3,270 men."

What about the other forty-one?

Discrimination or Lack of Ambition?

Much has been written and more said relative to the alleged discrimination against women who are working in offices, especially those employed in the Government departments. The agitation in this respect has greatly increased since the demobilization of most of the young men who left their positions in civil life to respond to their country's call. Disregarding the fact that these young men certainly are entitled to their former positions, a careful investigation of the facts will in nearly every instance, show that there is no discrimination against women, but that the so-called preference given to men is merely the survival of the fittest.

A typical case is that of a young man who has been working in a Government department for about five years, who is now supervising the work of a number of women who have been working in the same department for a much longer period. A few of the women are high school graduates and the rest have not even high school educations. They have been working in the same office for many years. During that time they have never thought of attending a night school or studying to improve themselves, but have been satisfied merely to draw their salaries. The executive positions in the particular bureau where these women are employed require a knowl-

edge of a certain branch of the law, yet it never occurred to them to study that law. On the other hand the young man immediately upon taking his position as stenographer, took every opportunity to study the laws pertaining to his work. He attended a law school at night. When there was declared he entered the army, obtained a commission as an officer, and served for about sixteen months, six months of which was in foreign service. This, of course, was an education in itself. Upon being discharged he returned to his former position at a low salary. He immediately commenced a course in English and rhetoric which he completed and he is now in his senior year at law. There is a great outcry from the women in the office, claiming that they are being discriminated against in allowing this young man to supervise their work. This is not an unusual case. It is believed, therefore, that women in offices or departments who believe that they are not receiving fair treatment look squarely at the situation and endeavor to see just why they are being discriminated against. If they will show the same initiative, the same ambition, and the same amount of energy as the young men about them they will find that they will receive the same consideration.

EUGENE C. ROWLEY, JR.