

Discontinued.

710

THE ZETETIC

AND

ANTI-THEORIST:

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL COSMOGRAPHY.

EDITED BY "PARALLAX."

(Editor of "*Earth Life*," Author of "*Zetetic Astronomy*," and other Scientific Works, and Founder of the Modern Zetetic Astronomy.)

VOL. 2.—No. 8 & 9.]

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER, 1873.

[ONE PENNY.]

THE EARTH ON FIRE:

WILL IT BE DESTROYED?

It is a part of the speculative philosophy of the day that the earth is a sphere*: that there is a gradually dying out central fire; that the whole mass was once in a red-hot molten condition; and that the congealed crust left after long ages of cooling is the present habitable surface. If we ask for evidence, we are met with the statement, that many parts of the earth bear visible signs of the action of fire. This may be granted. Many parts, but not all parts. If the whole earth had once been in a red-hot state, all its parts would shew marks of igneous action. All the metals, alkalies, and metallic oxides, — the lime, magnesia, baryta, strontia, silix, alumina, potash, soda, and other substances, would have been fused and vitrified. The silix and the fixed alkalies especially would have been converted into glass, and the alumina, in the various forms of clay, would not have remained in a plastic condition. It would have been burnt to the anhydrous state; and, no exposure to the action of air and rain, would have restored it to the soft and pasty condition in which we generally find it. Like the baked clay

* This has been amply disproved in previous numbers of the *Zetetic*.

tablets recently discovered in the ruins of Nineveh, which after thousands of years are found to retain their hard and friable character, so would all the clays of the earth remain to this day anhydrous and non-plastic, if they had ever been acted on by a fire such as that which theoretical geologists assume to have existed. Many other facts and conditions could be pointed out to prove the utter impossibility and inconsistency of the assumption that the earth was once a molten glowing mass, and that it has been for ages, and is now gradually cooling down. That it is on fire; and that this fire has been burning for hundreds—perhaps thousands of years, and that convulsive upheavings of its lowest parts have often occurred, and hence the signs of fire-action so often met with, may be admitted. Anything more is beside and opposed to facts, and therefore must be repudiated.

"Chemical analysis proves to us the important fact that the great bulk of the earth—meaning thereby the *land* as distinct from the waters—is composed of metallic oxides, or metals in combination with oxygen; and also with sulphur, chlorine, carbon, and other elements. When means are taken to remove the oxygen, it is found that many of these metallic bases are highly com-



bustible. Experiments with electric and other subtle powers of nature make it obvious that all the elements of the earth were once in a state of gaseous solution, or dissolved in the great menstruum of the material world, electricity. That by a sudden abstraction of this great and almost universal solvent the elements held in solution were quickly liberated; and that owing to the different affinities and relative densities which had been attached to them, combination, precipitation, stratification, crystalization, and concretion, successively and rapidly occurred, giving rise to all the minerals, ores, deposits, rocks, and strata, which now constitute the material habitable world. That by the wisdom-directed action of uncondensed, or gaseous unprecipitated elements, and free electric, actinic, and other forces upon pre-existing, eternal, uncreated, and indestructible germs, or *seeds*, all the numerous forms of animal and vegetable life were brought into being, and are now maintained.

"However great such operations may seem to the mind of present man, it is easily demonstrable that all the vast structure of the physical world, and its innumerable myriads of organised beings, were the work of only a few hours . . . all opinions to the contrary are the result of insufficient perception of the whole subject; which insufficient perception is again the result of self-imposed hypotheses, which bias the judgment and confuse the understanding. Not only is it readily demonstrable that the material world was brought into being rapidly, perfect in structure, and fully sufficient for all its purposes, but that only a few thousand years have elapsed since its formation from normal imponderable chaos. It is traceable that for a considerable time the earth retained its beautiful form and structure; but that evil, in a tangible shape, brought about confusion, electric and chemical action, decomposition and destruction of the elemental harmony which first existed; until at length the lower portions of the earth were brought into a state of

combustion: a fire began to spread and to gradually increase in extent and intensity. The volatile products of this fire, occasionally accumulating and exploding, have broken up the original and beautifully stratified formations, and produced the irregular, confused conditions now everywhere visible. Hence too arose earthquakes, volcanoes, and other convulsions of nature. That the lower parts of the earth are still on fire, the evidence is superabundant. Taking the level of the sea as our *datum* it is found that, at the depth of sixty feet, alternations of heat and cold do not exist.

"The temperature of the earth is the same winter and summer." In the deep coal mines at Killingworth and at Rosebridge, near Wigan, where the depth is more than 2400 feet; in the salt works of New Salzwerk, near Minden, in Prussia, nearly 2000 feet deep; in the Monkwearmouth shaft, near Durham; and in the Dukerfield shaft, near Manchester, both of them 2000 feet deep; and in many other parts of the world, it has been found that the Fahrenheit thermometer stands one degree higher for every 60 feet it is carried downwards. The hottest waters which issue from the earth, whether in natural or artificial springs, such as the Artesian wells, are found to be those which come from the greatest depths. The inflammable gases, and the choke and fire damps, as well as ordinary and submarine volcanoes, which have existed and continue to exist, in various places, all unmistakably indicate that a terrible fire rages at no great distance below the sea level of the earth. Humboldt says, "It is established that terrestrial heat increases with increasing depth." Sir Charles Lyell, addressing the British Association at Bath, affirms that "an increase of heat is always found as we descend into the earth." Professor Silliman declares that "Reasoning from causes known to exist, a great part of the earth is an ocean of melted rock." M. de Quatrefages, in his 'Rambles of a Naturalist,' states, 'It has been shewn, by numerous and

has increased from 82 to 85 degrees." The so-called perpetual fires which have been burning for ages near Deliktash, have recently been found to have increased in brilliancy. All the thermometers which have been suspended for many years in the caves beneath the Observatory at Paris, are now found to stand higher in temperature. The products of volcanic action are found to contain more compounds of carbonaceous combustion than they did when first examined. The millions of gallons of petroleum "struck" and "drawn" from numerous places, indicating increasing distillation of carbonaceous matter into combustible oils, and therefore increasing heat, and the fearfully increasing explosions in our coal mines, indicating increased and advancing combustion in the earth, giving rise to "choke" and "fire damps," and the lamentable increase in the loss of life which has occurred during the last few years, all are potent evidences that the fire in the earth is increasing; and that it is surrounded with inflammable materials is matter of certainty. The hundreds of millions of tons of coals which are known to exist in England, America, India, China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and many other parts of the earth; the vast quantities of turf, peat, mineral oils, rock tar, pitch, asphalt, bitumen, petroleum, mineral naphtha, and other hydrocarbons, to be found in all directions, and the great bulk of these carbon compounds existing far down below the earth's surface, prove this condition to exist. The immense volumes of carbon in combination with hydrogen and with oxygen, forming carbonic acid, carbonic oxide, and carburetted hydrogen gases, which escape during volcanic and other convulsive action, prove also that many of these carbon compounds are already in a state of intense combustion.

"As the fire is gradually increasing and steadily creeping upwards towards the thousands of miles of veins and strata filled with millions of tons of combustible matter, it is not possible, un-

less the "course of nature" is arrested by some special interference, for the earth to remain much longer in its present concrete condition. The day is not far distant, nay, even now, at any moment, some sudden convulsive upheaving from the fiery gulph below, until it reaches and lays bare some of the lower beds of hydro-carbon which "dip" at various angles from the general strata, may set them on fire. The flames would rapidly extend; and the fiery action swiftly run along the innumerable veins of combustible substances which ramify in every direction throughout the whole earth. The presence of such enormous masses of intensely heated carbon and hydrogen would alter the affinities existing among the rocks and minerals of the earth,—they would no longer offer resistance, but would favour and take part in the chemical action. The fire would thus rapidly increase in intensity, and fiercely rush in all directions until the whole earth with everything upon and within it would perish, would burst into one vast indescribable annihilating conflagration."

"The elements 'burning with fervent heat' will dissolve in the great solvent medium electricity, and will then remain in solution until some creative mandate shall liberate and again precipitate and stratify them for the formation of another world—less discordant and more enduring than the present."

"A day will yet come when this earth will be burned up by fire. There is fire within it ready to burst forth at any moment."—*Professor Gausen, Geneva.*

"If we saw a number of persons on some huge raft, tossed up and down on the surface of the ocean, we should naturally feel alarmed for their safety. And if we were told that so far from being apprehensive of danger, they fancied their position one of eminent security, that they pointed with pride to the thickness and solidity of the timber under their feet, laughing to scorn every suggestion that their footing might by-and-by

prove less sound than they imagine, we should conclude that their minds must be strangely constituted. Does it not seem extraordinary, then, that so little should be thought of a position far more perilous, in which all the inhabitants of the earth are continually placed? . . . Their position resembles, more nearly than most of us think, that of persons floating on the surface of the sea,—on a raft of great strength and thickness it is true, but yet not proof against the fury of the waves, and liable to sudden disruption of its part. The only difference is that the sea on which we are floating is a sea of liquid fire the molten elements of the main substance of the earth.”—*The Quiver*, Oct. 5, 1861.

[*Zetetic Astronomy*, 2nd edition.]

That such a conflagration and destruction of the earth *must occur* if nature is left to herself, it would be madness to deny. That it *may not* take place is *not impossible*. Why, and by whom, the “course of nature” may be arrested, will be shewn in our next number.

DOES THE EARTH REVOLVE?

In the *New York Daily Graphic* of September 6, 1873, the Vice-President of the New York Zetetic Society offers to present the sum of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS to any Local Charitable Institution, that the majority of the judges appointed may select, if any Scientist of the United States can publicly demonstrate by direct evidence and experiment, that the earth revolves upon axes.

THE BEDFORD LEVEL EXPERIMENT.

THE next attempt to demonstrate the non-convexity of water, will take place early in the coming spring—February or March. Due notice will be given. From the many letters we have had in reference to the subject, it is expected that a great number of Scientists will gather to witness the experiments.

GATHERINGS.

“Modern theoretic astronomy is a confused mass of assumption, error, contradiction, and inconsistency, equally unreasonable and unscriptural; and the boast which is so often made of

mathematical accuracy avails nothing; for, as truly expressed by Goldsmith, when speaking of different theories of the earth, ‘Both sides have brought in mathematics to their aid, and have shewn that long and laborious calculations can at any time be made to obscure both sides of a question.’”

“The new idea should be as graciously received by society, as a new-born child by the family.”

“It frequently happens that facts which we have every day an opportunity of observing, are disregarded, however curious they may be; whilst those that occur rarely are much more likely to arrest our attention. In consequence of this craving for novelty, many highly interesting particulars escape us, till some master mind, some philosophic spirit, interposes, and opens from old materials a new and extensive field of inquiry.”

“I have no fear whatever. I believe that the revelations of the Bible will be found in the long run to contain more science than all the theories of philosophers put together.”—*Dr. Jeune, Bishop of Peterborough*.

“Bold indeed is the task of him who dares, in the pursuit of truth and reason, to burst the barriers that have been rendered sacred by the custom of ages.”

“No falsehood can last for ever. Although it be buttressed by power, gilded by genius, sanctioned by success, believed in by millions, and covered with the awful hoar of many hundreds of years, it must sooner or later die. Men at last discover their delusion, and they rise up to destroy it with a vehemence of indignation proportioned to the length of time it has lasted, and to the depth of hold it has usurped over their hoodwinked minds.”

In an old work published in the 11th century, the following sentence occurs respecting the magnet:—

“The fortune-tellers rub the point of a needle with the ‘stone of love’ (the frequent name of the magnet in many distinct languages), to render it capable of indicating the south.”

“Newton would never refuse to examine any new discovery however opposed to his theory, which he was prepared at any moment to abandon.”

The following is a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation of the Zetetic Society:—

State of New York. }
Office of the Secretary } S.S.
of State. }

I have compared the preceding* with the Duplicate Certificate of Incorporation of the Zetetic Society, with acknowledgment thereto annexed, filed in this office on the Twenty-fourth day of June, 1873, and *hereby certify* the same to be a correct transcript therefrom, and the whole of said original.

[Legal seal
affixed here].
*Witness my hand and the seal of
office of the Secretary of State, at
the City of Albany this Twenty-
fourth day of June, one thousand
eight hundred and seventy-three.*

ANSON S. WOOD, Deputy Secretary of State.

* *i. e.* the Act and Regulations of the Incorporators in the form prescribed by the Statutes.

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* Author of "The Scientific Basis of Education," addressed to the department of Public Institutions in the City of New York.

THE ZETETIC SOCIETY.

BY-LAWS.

CHAPTER I.—TITLE.

1. The title of the Society is, "THE ZETETIC SOCIETY."

CHAPTER II.—OBJECTS.

1. The objects of the Society are the collection and diffusion of "Zetetic" (in contradistinction to "Theoretic") information, on the basis expounded by "Parallax" the founder; and for the advancement thereby of the true, natural, social, and moral Zetetic Philosophy.

CHAPTER III.—MEMBERS.

1. The Society shall consist of Fellows, Resident, non-Resident, Honorary, Corresponding and ex-Officio members.

2. Fellows are chosen on account of their special devotion and discoveries in Zetetic Philosophy, and comprise those who have been prominently associated with the Zetetic cause prior to the establishment of this Society, and hold its diplomas.

3. Resident members are those residing in the city of New York or its vicinity.

4. Non-resident members are those residing at least twenty-five miles distant from the City of New York.

5. Honorary members shall be chosen on account of their distinction in various branches of science or philosophy, provided they are consistent with the Zetetic process of research, and not more than twelve of such members shall hereafter be elected in any one year.

6. Corresponding members shall be chosen from those who have aided the advancement of Zetetic philosophy.

7. Ex-officio members, shall be foreign diplomatic representatives and consuls, resident in the United States, and United States diplomatic representatives and consuls in foreign countries.

8. Fellows and resident, non-resident, corresponding and honorary members shall be elected as follows: All nominations of candidates shall be openly made, in writing, at a meeting of the Society or the Council, by a member thereof, and together with the name of the member making them entered on the minutes. The persons thus nominated, when approved by the Council, and elected by the Society, shall, on payment of the initiation fee, if nominated as a resident or non-resident member, and without such payment if nominated as a fellow or an honorary or corresponding member, become members of the Society accordingly.

9. Persons entitled to become ex-officio members of the Society shall, on the recommendation

of the council, be by the Society constituted and declared to be such members.

10. The name of any member of the Society may, on the recommendation of the Council and by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a stated meeting of the Society be withdrawn from the register of members.

CHAPTER XV.—COUNCIL.

1. The Council shall have the management and control of the affairs, property, and funds of the Society, and shall designate an incorporated bank in the City of New York, where said funds shall, from time to time they accrue, be deposited by the Treasurer.

2. It may form its own by-laws not inconsistent with the statutes or act of incorporation or by-laws of the Society, and create such professorships or offices as may in its discretion appear desirable; and grant diplomas under seal of the Society to members distinguishing themselves in Zetetic Philosophy, according to merit for the degrees of "Associate," "Bachelor," "Master," or "Doctor" of Zetetic Philosophy, respectively; and who shall under such title, thereupon be recorded as Fellows.

It may issue the Society's Medal to members distinguishing themselves by the collection of facts, object and useful information for the Society.

It may also make grants of money to explorers and scientific expeditions in behalf of the Society; and generally do all such other things as may be incidental and conducive to the interests and objects of the Society.

LETTERS, &c.

To the Editor of the "Zetetic."

Sir,—You say, in your private letter to me, "It is arrant folly to consider an assumption demonstrated truth because it seems to explain certain phenomena." Unfortunately, for any value to be attached to this observation, my proposed investigation contains no "assumption." But as the phenomena observed in the motions of the planets, namely, that they *apparently* describe "loops" from time to time—and as these "loops" can be explained only on the *supposition* that the earth has a motion in space, and as you don't admit this, I should like to know how you would explain the apparent formation of the "loops" in question?

Yours, &c.,

J. T.

[The above letter is a good illustration of the

manner in which the practice of theorizing injures the perceptivity of the mind. Our correspondent first affirms that his proposed investigation "contains no assumption;" and immediately afterwards employs words which in a single sentence involve a treble assumption:—First, to say that the planets *apparently* describe "loops" is to *assume* that the "loop" motion is not their real motion; Secondly, to say that "these loops" can only be explained on the *supposition* that the earth has a "motion in space" is to *assume* that no other explanation can be given, or no other cause shown to operate to produce them, than the motion of the earth in space; and, Thirdly, the *supposition* that the earth *does* move in space is itself an *assumption*,—and a very great and unwarrantable one. You ask us to "explain the apparent formation of the loops in question." You may quite as properly ask us to explain how two persons waltzing revolve round a constantly shifting centre. If the planets do describe "loops" they do,—and there's an end of the matter. We know that the sun moves in a path concentric with the polar centre; and that this path enlarges every day for six months, and daily diminishes for six months. But why it moves in this peculiar manner, or why comets move in such peculiar orbits, or the planets in "loops"—nay *why they move at all*, it is not yet in our power to answer,—a Zetetic Philosopher must be content with the fact; not unwilling to seek out the cause if possible; but never to speculate, never to indulge in assumptions for the sake of seeming to understand. If the planets are observed to move in "loops," what right has any man to say they don't move in "loops,"—what object can such a denial serve? A natural fact or phenomenon, visible at all times, and for hundreds of years, well known to practical observers, is flatly denied, because a specious theory, made up of and built upon ridiculous assumptions, cannot be made to harmonize with it. This practice of assumption is most degrading to the human intellect; it leads men to equivocation, to prevarication, to special pleading, to presumption, to denial of the most sacred realities, and possibly to perdition. One of the most beneficent acts of potential mercy would be to send down a consuming fire that would destroy for ever, all the bewildering theories which exist among men, and burn out of the human heart that abominable impulse which leads it to prefer assumption and speculation, to solid practical wisdom and understanding.]

To the Editor of the "Zetetic."

Sir,—In your answer to the inquiry of "W.H." in your June number, as to the rising and setting of the sun, you instance as a parallel illustration, a lamp, which "fixed on the top of a long pole and carried away from an observer appears to get lower and lower as the distance increases. So with the sun," &c.

But, supposing the sun does seem to sink in the way you explain, it ought also, according to your own theory of its motion and distance, become smaller and smaller (because the distance increases) as it recedes towards the north-west and nears the sinking point. But what is the fact? We all know that the sun's apparent diameter is as large in the morning or evening as when at its zenith at noon.

Hoping you will kindly explain this,

I am, dear Sir, yours obediently,

EYESIGHT.

[As the sun recedes towards the west, upon a plain the length of atmosphere through which the light has to pass increases; and therefore the sun's disc, from gradually increasing refraction, appears more and more dilated, just as on a damp evening the lights of ordinary street lamps appear larger at the distance of a hundred yards, than those which are only a few yards away.]

ERRATUM.

At page 34 of the *Zetetic* for July last, it is said "the North Pole is in latitude 70°. 5'. 17". It should read "North Magnetic Pole, &c."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"E.P."—We have seen some of the letters signed "Terra Filius," and "J. Moden," in the *Birmingham Morning News*. Men who can write such letters, and exhibit such temper and recklessness of language, are truly unworthy of notice. But for the sake of our truth loving readers we condescend to say, that the several passages in these letters which refer to us, are so unfairly stated that the words amount to falsehood. We are willing to admit that such writers are "good at heart," but they are so bewildered by the potency of the facts we have brought against their theories, that they cannot control their malignant impulses; their natures are good, but their

actions in effect are evil because they cling tenaciously to what they have been educated to believe to be true;—the γ is they have not been better taught:—evil, because they cease to be gentlemen towards those with whom they differ in judgment.

On another occasion I will give a correct version of the several mars referred to in the letters of "J. Moden" and "Terra Filius," meanwhile we respectfully ask them, whether they have the courage, either both of them, to meet us in public discussion on any platform in London, there to defend the speculative philosophy, and to prove the sements they have made against us. We shall be proud of the opportunity to disabuse their minds, and to show the fallacy of their teachings. I hope to receive an acceptance before the issue of the next number of the *Zetetic*. If not, may some good fairy protect them from the just incination of every truth seeker.

"Beta," "Orthodox," "John Hampden," and others in our next.

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