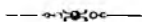


THE  
SHAPE OF THE WORLD,

BY

A. E. SKELLAM.



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# THE SHAPE OF THE WORLD.

On this subject there are two great schools of thought ; one which teaches that the world is a globe of 25,000 miles circumference, rotating on its axis once in twenty-four hours at the rate of 1,000 miles per hour, and revolving in an orbit round the sun once a year at the rate of 68,000 miles per hour ; the other teaches that the earth is a vast irregular plane, stretched out from the Central North and standing in and out of the waters, the surface of which is horizontal. One of these two views must be wrong, and the other right.

Now that the world cannot be a globe will be evident from the following FACTS :—

1. The horizon ALWAYS appears on a level with the eye, no matter to what altitude we ascend. Aëronauts assert that the horizon H H, FIG. 1, always appears on a level with the car,\* and that it (the horizon) seems to rise as they rise, the deepest part appearing to be immediately under the car, and that instead of the surface of the earth appearing convex, as it should if it were a globe, see FIG. 2, it appears concave as in FIG. 1.

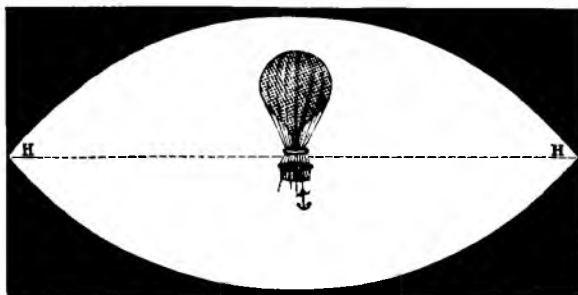


FIG. 1 represents what is seen by Aëronauts.

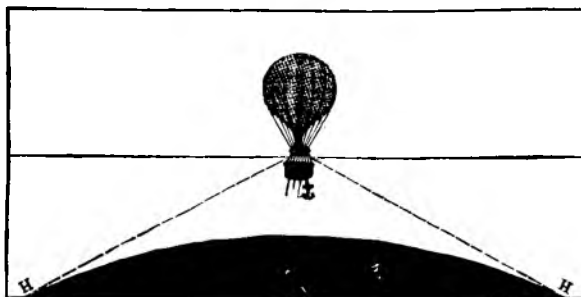


FIG. 2. What should be seen if the earth were a globe.

\* See Mr. Glaisher's (of Royal Observatory, Greenwich) Report in *Leisure Hour*, October 11, 1862.

( 3 )

Perspective shows that parallel lines appear to meet in the distance, as, for instance, railway lines, but diverging lines never can appear to meet, no matter how slight the divergence. If A B, FIG. 3, represent the skyline, and C E D a part of the earth's surface, if curved the earth would appear to be curved from C to E to an observer at A, and the horizon instead of being "on a level with the eye" would always be below, and sink lower the higher the observer ascended.

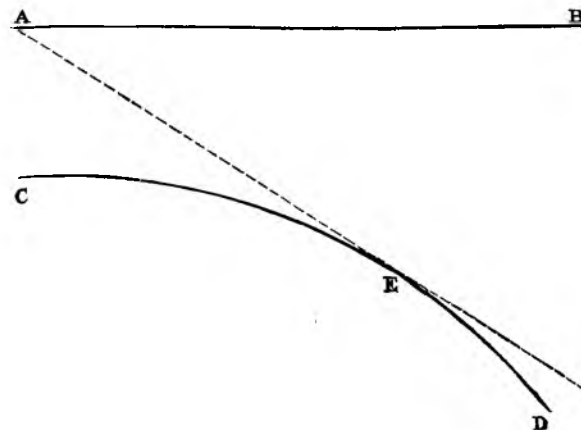


FIG. 3.

2. The horizon, at sea, to the right and left of an observer, always appears as a straight line, but if the world were a globe it (the horizon) would dip to the right hand and to the left, and show the arc of a circle. If a plank or straight edge, about 12 feet long, be set level above the water, and the observer get at the back of the plank or straight edge, so that his eye be on a level with it, he will see the horizon as a perfectly straight or horizontal line.

3. The lights from many lighthouses are visible at a much greater distance than they could possibly be if the world were a globe 25,000 miles in circumference.

\*The flame of the Clare Island light can be seen, in clear weather, a distance of 31 statute miles. The dip in 31 miles is 640 feet ( $31^2 \times \frac{8}{12} = 961 \times \frac{8}{12} = 640\frac{2}{3}$  feet). The altitude of the light above high water is 341 feet, and is seen from the deck of a vessel 15 feet above sea-level ( $640 - 341 - 15 = 284$  feet). After deducting the altitudes the light should be 284 feet below the horizon if the world be a globe.

\*Beachy Head light can be seen 26 statute miles away. The dip in 25 miles is 450 feet ( $26^2 \times 8 \div 12 = 450$  feet 8 inches), altitude of light above high water 284 feet, vessel 15 feet ( $450 - 284 - 15 = 151$  feet). The light should be 151 feet below the line of sight if the globular theory of Copernicus be true.

\* See "Admiralty List of Lights," Part I., 1893. Published by Hydrographic Department, Admiralty, and sold by J. D. Potter, 31, Poultry, E.C.

\*Cromer light is 274 feet above high water, and can be seen a distance of 26 statute miles; vessel 15 feet above high water. The dip in 26 miles is 450 feet; less altitudes ( $450 - 274 - 15 = 161$  feet) leaves 161 feet to be accounted for if the world be a globe. There are many examples similar to the foregoing. The following note in the Admiralty List makes the case all the stronger against the globular theory:—"Under certain atmospheric conditions, and especially with the more powerful lights, the GLARE of the light is visible considerably beyond the radius given, which is calculated for the ACTUAL FLAME of the light."

4. No allowance is made by engineers for curvature in making canals and railway cuttings, and is, in fact, forbidden by Act of Parliament, which states that all plans, &c., shall be made from "a datum horizontal line, which shall be the same throughout the whole length of the work."† If the earth were a globe this allowance would be indispensable.

5. The surface of standing water has been proved, beyond all question of doubt, to be horizontal and not convex as it should be if the world were a globe. Water always finds its level, the surface of which, at rest, is always found to be horizontal. A convex surface is not a level or horizontal surface, although some people would have us believe it is.

6. The Midnight Sun being seen ONLY in the northern regions is evidence against the globular theory. If the world were a globe, the midnight sun would be seen in the southern regions in December as it is seen in the northern in June. The author of a book entitled "The Land of the Midnight Sun" says:—"At the pole the observer seems to be in the centre of a grand spiral movement of the Sun." Why does this NOT occur in the southern regions? These few facts alone are sufficient to prove that the world is not a globe, but a vast irregular plane stretching out from a north centre to a south circumference in every direction; surrounded by water and ultimately in the extreme south by impassable barriers of ice. Vasco-de-Gama in his "Voyage to the South" says:—"The waves rise like mountains in height. The winds are piercing cold and so boisterous that the pilot's voice can seldom be heard, whilst a dismal and almost continual darkness adds greatly to the danger." How far this gloom and darkness and storms extends is not known. All we know is that the most daring have been stopped at the entrance to this gloomy, and what seems to be, forbidden region of the world.

If these lines cause any to think and search after Truth, the writer's object will have been attained. Truth is not injured by enquiry and test, but is like a cube always right side up.

A. E. SKELLAM.

Wandsworth,

August, 1893.

## THE SOUTHERN MIDNIGHT SUN;

By Zetetes.

In a late number of the *Windsor Magazine* we had an account by Dr. Cook, Surgeon of the Belgian Antarctic Expedition, of the experiences of the crew of the *Belgica* in the south polar ice, about latitude  $71^{\circ}$ , and averaging about the same number of degrees west longitude. These experiences are interesting as showing the great perils these hardy voyagers endured in their daring expedition. But the chief point of interest to Zetetics is found in what professes to be a photographic picture of "The Midnight Sun: Christmas, 1898;" showing also the *Belgica* frozen in the great ice pack, and never moving, except as she moved with the whole ice-field, from March 4th, 1898, to February 14th, 1899."

A few of our planist friends have been unnecessarily disturbed by this picture, and the account to which it refers; and some of our globularist opponents have been prematurely elated by it. One of the latter, thinking the discovery of a Southern Midnight Sun was a clear proof of the sphericity of the earth wrote a letter and triumphantly demanded to know of the planists

"WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THIS?"

In fact our friend did not put the question quite so politely as this. But if he will excuse us polishing it a little for him, to make up for his want of courtesy, we will, as far as our health and the editor's space permit, proceed to reply. In the meantime we can make some allowance for our opponent, as his head might be a little giddy through the globe, like a monster fly-wheel, turning him under; living as he does at the "antipodes," and, of course, hanging head downwards at the time of his writing! And this antipodean predicament was the position of the explorers, according to our astronomical friends.

But first let me tell all the globularists what true Zetetics will *not* do with this fact, if it be a fact, which we are under

\* See "Admiralty List of Lights," Part I., 1893. Published by Hydrographic Department, Admiralty, and sold by J. D. Potter, 31, Poultry, E.C.

† See No. 14 Standing Order of Houses of Lords and Commons on Railway Operations, for Session 1862.

no anxiety to deny. First, then, we shall not lose confidence in another fact, which our opponents conveniently, persistently, and quietly ignore, namely, the fact that the surface of still

WATER is LEVEL, and the EARTH therefore a PLANE!

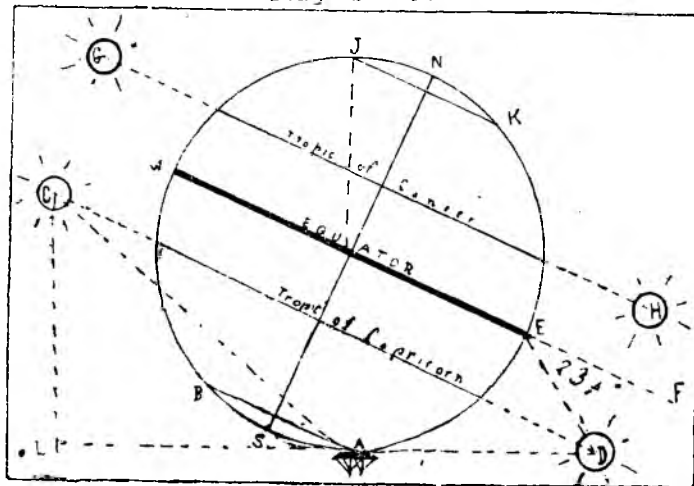
This great fact has so frequently been attested in Zetetic literature (and the editor of *The Earth* may again give testimony to it) that I shall not dwell upon it, especially as no astronomer has ever seriously attempted to disprove it. I only retort in the words of the question asked above, What will our opponents do with this fact? And echo answers, What? I venture to predict that they will not even attempt to deal with it.

But we will attempt to deal with their fact ; and in the first place we will proceed to show that the Southern Midnight Sun, from the position of the *Belgica*, as reported,

COULD NOT BE SEEN ON A GLOBE?

To make our argument clear we refer to the following diagram.

Diagram 1.



Let N E S W represent the sea-earth globe of science ; N S the "imaginary axis;" and E W the equator. At  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  north and south draw lines representing the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn respectively. Produce these lines indefinitely, say to C and D, and G and H. Produce the equatorial line W E to F. And at the point E, on the equator, at the surface of the earth, draw the line E D making an angle of  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  south of the vertical line E F. Where the line E D intersects the produced tropic of Capricorn place the sun at D. This shows the sun's position about Christmas time, when in the southern solstice, as seen from the equator at  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  south of the vertical. The sun of course is seen from the *surface* of the earth, and not from the centre, where our astronomical friends cunningly place the aforesaid angle. But we are not ignorant of their devices. The angle ought to be made where it is seen, on the equatorial surface, not down below in Hades ! We have therefore placed it there. This proves the sun to be comparatively near the earth, as we have already proved by mathematical demonstration in a previous article on the *Sun's Distance*. Thus one fact corroborates another.

We have now to point out the relative position of the observers in the *Belgica*. According to Dr. Cook's report the vessel had reached about  $71\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  south latitude. In the diagram the line A B represents the southern, or Antarctic, circle, at  $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  S. Therefore the explorers had passed this line by about  $5^{\circ}$  nearer the south "Pole." The vessel was therefore a little to the south of point A, where we have placed it in the diagram. From this point draw the line A D a tangent to the sphere at the place of observation. Strictly this line would fall a little below the sun's place at D, but we give our opponents this amount to make up, and more than make up, for whatever refraction they might consistently claim. The point D then marks the position of the sun to the crew of the *Belgica* at mid-day, that is barely on their horizon! The point C, on the opposite side of the globe, marks the position of the sun at mid-night, twelve hours later. To see the sun at mid-night from the position of the explorers the observer would either have to look round the great curve of the earth down a "dip" of some four thousand miles, or he would have

## TO LOOK DOWN THROUGH THE SOLID GLOBE,

as represented by the line A C, a distance of some four or five thousand miles ! If our friends claim the ability to see through either land or water for four or five thousand miles, or to see the sun when below their horizon some thousands of miles, as represented by the "dip" from L to C, then I will yield, and confess that the southern midnight sun could be seen from the position assigned upon a globe. But if not—and notwithstanding the temerity of the astronomers in making some of their preposterous claims and hypotheses, we hardly think they will claim this ability—then, if not, I claim the fact that the midnight sun has been seen in extreme south latitudes as another proof that

## THE EARTH IS NOT A GLOBE !

Thus we have so far answered our friend's defiant query, and shown the globularist what we can "do with this fact." And in the same way it can be proved that it would be impossible to see the northern midnight sun at G, from the point K, if the earth was a globe. But as the writer gave this proof some years ago in a pamphlet entitled *The Midnight Sun* (north), reprinted from the *Earth not-a-globe Review*, the reader is referred to it for the elaboration of this splendid proof that the earth is an extended plane.

If our friend at the antipodes, or if any of our astronomical friends, or foes, will deal with the demonstrated fact that the surface of still water is level, absolutely level, we will, God willing, deal further with this last reported fact of the Southern Midnight Sun, and offer an explanation of the same on purely Zetetic lines.

