

**THE MYSTERY OF THE MOON ;  
Or the Laws and Logic of the Lunatics.**

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*To the Public:* Of the making of books there may be an end, but the time is not yet. My motives in writing have been of such a mixed character that I am unable to define them clearly. Being unable to deliver you a favorable notice at so much a line, you will be required to use your own judgment as to the value to be derived from a perusal. If the laws and logic of the lunatics does you no good it can at least do you no harm, for reasons that must be apparent to you, if you are honest to yourself, which latter I much doubt. Venturing my personal recommendation, you will find the *Mystery of the Moon* fairly good reading, as the type is new and the ink excellent. Dr. Talmage, in the *Christian Herald* and *Signs of the Times*, advertises a Bible that he is giving as a bonus to any one who will consent to read and pay for the *Christian Herald*, and tells his customers that his bonus Bible will weigh over three pounds. The *Mystery of the Moon* cannot boast the ponderous proportions of the Doctor's bonus, but will weigh when finished perhaps half a pound, which is pretty good for a start on a new story, and ought to have some weight with readers of THE LAMP.

Sincerely, O. G. W.

The moon is said to be cold and dead. From earliest times we have been seeking to know something of our sister planet, or satellite, as some people call it. Powerful glasses have failed to reveal anything like vegetation, and on the side that is always presented to us there is no water surface, so that any life such as we can imagine could not exist. Again, when an occultation of a star takes place at the moment of contact with the limb, or edge of the moon, there does not appear to be any diminution of clearness of the star; this has been accepted by the scientific world as proof that no atmosphere exists around the moon.

To be accurate, science must, and always does, move slowly. While many great discoveries have been the result of pure adventure, or accident, yet many important additions to the general store of knowledge have been the result of de-

ductions from observed phenomena, that have led to the discovery of other phenomena, which might, but for these deductions, have remained hidden from the world. One instance may be cited to show how vast fields of material fact have been thus brought to light: Two scientists, unknown to each other, Mr. Adams, in England, and Mons. Leverrier, in France, were engaged about the year 1843 in a study of the planet Uranus, whose orbit was known; that is to say, it was known from long and careful study what the course of the planet was, which way it was going, and how long it would take to go round the sun from any given point back to the same point again. Not only do astronomers know this, but they can calculate the speed of a victim in any part of its orbit. You must understand that they charge many of the stars with loitering along the road, waiting for others, or putting on a spurt to catch up. Each planet is said to attract and affect all the rest, so that there is a good deal of pulling and hauling, just as in the working of a modern Christian congregation whose pastor has some individual opinions. They even pull as badly as a political party about local matters, but always come up to time like "the boys" when a general election is on hand. Uranus, however, had an unusual wobble about it, for which there was no apparent occasion. Jupiter and Saturn were both away off on the home stretch and here was Uranus fooling its time away like a temperance lodge fussing about rules of order and constitution, when it should be putting down the rum traffic. A close study of the subject caused these two men, independently of each other, to decide that there was another planet somewhere near that was doing the pulling; they even calculated where it was to be found, if it was at home. Another man heard of these calculations, and pointing his spy-glass in the direction indicated, there was the planet Neptune, sure enough, jam up within one thousand millions of miles of Uranus, and looking quite lovely and attractive. It proved to be a nice lump of a planet, too, being about 36,000 miles in diameter. As it was practically discovered by England and France, in which each claims priority by a few days, the matter will have to go to the courts, or, in case of arbitration,