

LITTLE FOLKS

If I Came From the Moon.

(Charles McIlvaine, in 'Sunday-school Times'.)

Our eyes can see a pin on the floor, and they see stars millions of miles away so long as their light comes to them. Our eyes are wonderful instruments. They do not have to be pulled out and pushed in, like a pair of opera glasses, in order that we may make them long or short enough to see things through. There is a little arrangement back of each eye called the retina which fixes itself instantly to see what we want to see, be it near or far.

If we want to see the moon plainly, we use a telescope to help our eyes. It appears to draw the moon closer. If we want to see how the foot of a fly is made, we use a microscope; it seems to make it much larger.

If we look at the moon through a spy-glass or opera-glasses, its surface looks somewhat like a kettle of boiling starch, excepting that there is no motion on the moon. It is brighter in some places than others. These bright places are high plains and mountain-tops upon which the sunlight strikes. The darker places are the shadows of the mountains, and the bottoms of the deep valleys where the sun's rays are not falling. If you look down upon a town from the top of a church steeple when the sun is shining, you will notice that the roof-tops, parts of buildings higher than others, are bright, while the lower buildings are darker; and down in the streets and around among the houses it is very much darker because the shadows are all there. Here you have at home the same effects that you see upon the surface of the moon. The spots that look like bursting bubbles of starch are the cold openings, or craters, of volcanoes whose fire has gone out.

The persons who make a study of the sun, moon, and stars are called astronomers. They know how to measure the distance these great bodies are from the earth, how large they are, how heavy, and what they are made of. They have even measured the heights of the mountains in the moon and the



"I WANT MY MAMMA!"

depth of the valleys. So, if I read carefully what they say about the moon, I can tell what I should have seen on the moon if I came from there pretty nearly as well as if I had been there. There are very good maps of the face of the moon.

It is right for me to say that I never was on the moon. If I had been, this is what I should have seen and felt.

If I weighed one hundred and eighty pounds at home, I should weigh but thirty pounds on the moon. If I could jump two feet on earth, I could, with the same force, jump twelve feet high there. The reason for this is that the force which holds us on the earth, called gravitation, is six times less on the moon. What a place for leap-frog! If I was six feet tall here, I should be fully grown at eighteen inches if

I had been born on the moon. The man in the moon that the stories tell of would not reach the knee of our men. His dog would not be bigger than a cricket.

I should have with me my air to breathe, and have to move about in a case so that the air would be inside of it; for there is no air about the moon. I should have to have all the water with me that I required; there is no water, or clouds, or rain there. Everything to eat would be taken along. The moon has nothing living upon it,—at least nothing that breathes air, as all living things on earth do. It is a dead world. Absolute silence reigns there; no ripple of stream, or song of bird, or even the roar of thunder.

It is covered with vast ranges of mountains, somewhat like our own