

ance of the Earth and grants it to the Sun. But now we regard neither Earth nor Sun as the centre. The Earth revolves around the Sun, but the Sun is only a Star, small in comparison with a great many. Most Stars also have their planets and generally much larger proportionately than the planets of the Solar System. Moreover Earth, Sun and Stars are all in motion, moving at inconceivable rates of speed. This theory takes away the sovereignty of the Sun, and shows us the insignificance of the Earth in this great system.

There have been very important and interesting discoveries made in recent years. These results are mainly due to the increased power of the telescope and to the inventions of the spectroscope and other instruments. We now know that the planets are other worlds similar in size and shape to our own, and this exciting question often presents itself to eager astronomers: Are they inhabited? Some eminent scientists believe that Mars at least is inhabited. Many are stirred with eager hopes of finding indications that living beings exist there. But there appears to be faint hope, unless some new method of procedure shall be devised as little thought of now as the spectroscope a century ago.

This is not inconceivable. What man a century ago would have deemed it possible that we would ever be able to discover of what the Sun consisted? Now we know with certainty a great many of its physical and chemical properties; we know its heat, weight, density and size; we know considerable of the surfaces of the planets, we can tell whether a planet possesses an atmosphere or not; we can observe the ice caps of Mars melt during the Martian summer and reappear during the winter.

Another discovery which would have seemed impossible a few years ago, is that dark and invisible bodies abound in the stellar spaces. Even 50 years ago it would have seemed impossible to detect a planet revolving round a distant star. But now we find this to be the rule rather than the exception.

Up to the middle of the present century there had been wonderful progress in the ordinary methods of research. Scientists perfectly understood the movements of the planets, their sizes, and their masses. But since Astronomy as a science must incite interest to be progressive, the outlook for Astronomy was not very bright because it seemed that they knew all about the heavenly bodies which was possible to be known. Although new comets and minor planets might be discovered, yet this was still following the old methods and rules and we would know nothing more of the worlds already discovered; and so Astronomy seemed to be losing its attractive power on account of the lack of intellectual nourishment. Growth is a necessary requisite of the vitality of the science, and in order to further healthful growth some new method of procedure was necessary. What this departure would be no one knew nor could any one have any idea or conception of it.

Even the most hopeful astronomers had expressed the opinion that although we might be able to find out much with regard to the