

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

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Nearly all the evening papers publish the International Sunday School Lesson, some going so far as to give it more space than the sporting column. A few, a very few papers, publish neither, but their circulation is comparatively small; that is, though they display as much as others, the public doesn't contribute, and only reads when it wants accurate and reliable information. From the Sunday School Lesson he learned that the moon was founded at various times, as decided by various religious histories. The discord engendered by such divergence of opinion hampered the progress of the Church, and in time a convention of the various civilized branches was called, at which it was unanimously decided to do something. A prominent delegate who was also a gold medalist mathematician, formulated the following theory, which was embodied in a resolution, finally fixing a uniform time: As light diminishes as the square of the distance, light on the date of the founding of Luna will be shed by adding the squares of all the dates and dividing by the number of dates; the quotient will be the true date. By this means it was ascertained that Luna was founded in the year — (owing to a break in the clouds the number of the year was lost) B.H.S., the meaning of which he afterward learned.

The wisdom of thus fixing a definite date from which to count was apparent in increasing harmony and large gains in membership. A few scoffers tried to point out that physical features proved Luna to be older and that the scheme was a device of the clerical party, but the date came in time to be respected, because it was as good as any other date anyway, and the opposition could not fix a date themselves, and the fact of the convention having been held was soon lost sight of by the masses.

The same authority shows that Luna was made out of nothing in a day, or about two weeks of our time, and that the Maker rested at night. He then made the sun, and the second day following, the stars, out of the same stuff.

They all revolve round Luna in a grand circle; the sun being the heaviest and having got a start on the stars, and sinking down in the west, pushes up the stars in the east, and so the whole affair goes round. The reason the stars don't shine out bright like the sun is because it gets so dark at night. Is it not sad to think of these benighted lunatics believing their small orb was the first of creation when we know that the moon was not made till after the earth was formed and properly hung.

The last act of creation after mankind was made, was to make monkeys, the theory being that it came about by the gradual change of those of mankind who used their imitative faculties without their reasoning powers being exercised. The whole job took thirty days and nights, or about a year of our time to complete. The great Manufacturer then rested for a whole day before going at another job.

Here is where they show their great lack of Christian principle. They set no store on the day of rest, everybody being free to rest on that day, or to stop resting if they want to. But on the days of work they must all work, or make it appear that they do, to imitate the Party of the First part, as the Maker is known. The unworking classes keep the letter of this law while violating the spirit of it by making an affidavit, witness that they have worked. This they can do for about \$150 of our money.

We learn that the moon is a flat structure somewhat raised in the midst—to let the water run off, I suppose. It really is somewhat the shape of an acorn out of the hull, or rather more like a pear, with the small end toward the earth. Though the matter seems simple enough to us, we must not forget that they have not our opportunities for ascertaining their error. On account of the lack of atmosphere at the sides, the world, the lunatics is surrounded by a belt of more than arctic coldness, and of sterility and desolation so awful that nothing on earth expresses it and no life can exist in it. With remarkable judgment the lunatics have never attempted to maintain a custom house on the margin of it. Their world is therefore circular, but practically flat, and, consequently, the centre of the Universe. The water is in the centre of the habitable part in an irregular