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"All Abord" for the Moon

(By CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES.) In Lloyd's Magazine.

our world, a distance approximating the surface of the moon. twenty-five thousand miles. Shall we Furthermore, because both earth ever be able to travel from our world and moon are in motion, we should to the moon, a distance of about two have to make careful mathematical hundred and thirty-nine thousand calculations in order to hit the mark.

moon, and back again. No one at all ture us. familiar with the progress of modern | Moreover, there are other difficul-

able discoveries, however, there will environment of the ether. remain great difficulties in the way of In order to remain alive, we should travelling from the earth to the moon. have to be surrounded by practically by which to counteract it.

Since the best modern guns can throw a shell with a speed of about three thousand feet per second, it is evident troy us. that we should have to be projected | Again, the walls of our sky-craft from our terrestrial surface about would have to be very strong to resist

Many of us have travelled around | twelve times as fast in order to reach

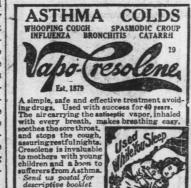
but it is not impossible that some day ling through space indefinitely, unless men may travel from our earth to the some planet, like Jupiter, were to cap-

science and invention will deny that ties and dangers in making a trip to we could to-day build a craft that embark in England at 8 p.m. and dissuch a journey is a future possibility. the moon. Our sky-craft would have would weather an ethereal voyage Indeed, it may be that to-morrow some to be strongly constructed-very from the earth to the moon. Doubt- clock the next morning. stupendous discovery will revolution- strongly indeed—to stand such a jour- less it could be constructed to stand ise aerial navigation, and if this should ney. Leaving out of consideration the the powerful attacks of pressure and After we have reached the moon, how occur, a journey to the moon would friction and pressure upon it in pass- of aerolites, as well as the sudden and are we to get home? That is a difficult soon be occupying the minds and en- ing through our atmosphere at such terrific bump at the end of the route. question to answer, although, if we ergies of terrestrial inventors and tremendous speed, there would be a Our astronomers of this twentieth cen- had the necessary mechanism to progreat outward pressure from within tury could certainly aim such a craft pel our craft, it would be easier to re-Even with the assistance of remark- it after we reached the vacuum-like so that it would reach its destination,

The first of these is the force that the same conditions inside our craft binds us to our world's surface. This as they were when we left the terres force, which we call gravity, pulls us trial surface. We should have to towards the centre of the earth, away breathe, and to have about the same from the moon, and it is so powerful atmospheric pressure upon our bodies that at present we know of no means as at the surface of our earth. Therefore-unless some unpredictable scien-To break its chain, so that we can tific discovery should assist us-the fly away from our planet home, would walls of the craft would have to be require a velocity of not less than exceedingly strong to resist the tendthirty-seven thousand feet per second. ency to expand outwardly into the ether, thus causing some opening which might suddenly or slowly des

small or large rock fragments popu- not have much to do. collision would not be a gentle one.

When our sky-craft reaches the moon, its landing is not likely to be Otherwise, in case our sky-craft should at all a soft one, since the moon pos-To-day, of course, we cannot do so; miss the moon, we might go on travelour speed, and the lunar surface is believed to be wholly rocky and hard.



larly known as "shooting stars." When But the power required to hurl a we remember that these bodies are sky-craft, weighing perhaps ten tons travelling with a velocity of ten to or more, with a velocity of about seven forty miles per second not far from miles per second, from the terrestrial the earth's surface, and that our craft surface and through the atmosphere would be speeding some seven miles into the ether, would be nothing less per second, it is evident that a headon than terrific. It seems an almost imnossible thing to do but future discoveries and inventions may put it in a different light.

We can calculate, at least approximately, how long such a voyage would take. Leaving out of consideration the acceleration of the sky-craft owing to the attraction of the moon, the aver-Doubtless, were we able to hurl our age time would be about nine hours sky-craft free from terrestrial gravity, and a half. In other words, we could

turn to the earth than to go to the moon. Upon the hunar surface, owing to the smaller mass of the moon, the force of gravity is only about one-sixth that of our terrestrial gravity, and it would therefore require a velocity of only a little more than six thousand feet per second to cvercome it. However, the vovage would be longer about fifty-six hours. Thus the whole trip to the moon and back, if there were no delay, would take almost three days.

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