of the Earth," with a statement discounting the so-called proof of circumnavigation. He says:—

"The statements commonly given as proofs of the spherical form of the earth would often apply as well to a cylinder or an egg-shaped or a disk-shaped body. "People have sailed around it," "The shadow of the earth as seen In the eclipse of the moon is always circular," etc., do not in themselves prove that the earth is a sphere. They might be true if the earth were a cylinder or had the shape of an egg. "But men have sailed around it in different directions." So might they a lemon shaped body. To make a complete proof, we must show that men have sailed around it in practically every direction and have found no appreciable difference in the distances in the different directions."[1]

How great a departure from views formerly held such a statement involves, may be well observed by a comparison of some of the statements upon this subject, made by other eminent authorities. The article on "The Earth," in the New Edition of Chamber's Encyclopædia, informs us, that—

"The most convincing proof to the popular mind is, however, that the Earth has been circumnavigated by vessels steering always in the same general direction."[2]

The Professor of Astronomy at Princeton University, Dr. Charles A. Young, whose revised work, *General Astronomy*, is said to be "without an equal in the English language," in that work says,

"It is not necessary to dwell upon the ordinary proofs of its globularity. We merely mention them. (1) It can be circumnavigated."[3]

The late Astronomer Royal of Great Britain, Sir George B. Airy, P.R.S., F.R.A.S., states—

"Again, people have sailed round the earth. This was done for the first time by Magellan and his successors in command: . . . The earth, therefore, roughly speaking, is something round, and there are limits to its extent."[4]

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[1] *Mathematical Geography*, New York, 1907, p. 24. See also R. A. Gregory, *The Planet Earth*, London, 1894, pp. 24-5.
[2] London, 1902, Vol. IV, p. 162.
[3] *General Astronomy*, Boston, 1904, p. 97.
[4] *Popular Astronomy*, London, 1868, p. 64.