

half that distance. We shall find nothing there to hold on by and keep ourselves steady. We must, therefore, open our wonderful shutters on opposite sides of the sphere in such a way that the downward pull of the earth will be exactly balanced by the upward pull of the sun. Having come to rest, then, in this novel position, we look down on our old home, and see it as we have never seen it before.

Can that really be our dull solid earth? How bright and dazzling it is when seen against the black depths of star-gemmed space! It looks like the full moon at its brightest, but much larger. Its surface shines like burnished silver. Across the centre, from east to west, shows a clear white band, on either side of which gleams a bluish tint, shading off here and there into green, and towards the upper or north side there are traces of a warm yellow. But the greater part of the disc is white, with streaks and patches of pale blue and green. The tinted markings, we soon see, are not quite fixed: the colours vary, and sometimes vanish, shading off into pure white. It seems a globe of shimmering pearl!

Whence comes all this whiteness? We had expected to see dark blue oceans, green continents, yellow sandy deserts, and the white snow and ice at either pole. We had forgotten the clouds! Clouds as we know them are dull, gray, gloomy things, but that is because they come between us and the sun. Where the sunshine strikes full upon them they are as white as snow. We know the old proverb, "Every cloud has a silver lining." Up here in the serene depths of space we see only the silver lining of those earth-born clouds. We are literally looking on the bright side of things. We have the same view of the earth as the sun itself has, and from the sun's point of view there is no darkness, no twilight, no shadow.

Perhaps we have not realized how thick a veil of clouds surrounds our earth. Taking one season with another, it is only a small part of the earth that enjoys clear skies, and that part is mostly desert: life on our earth depends on the kindly mingling of cloud with sunshine. If we ask what