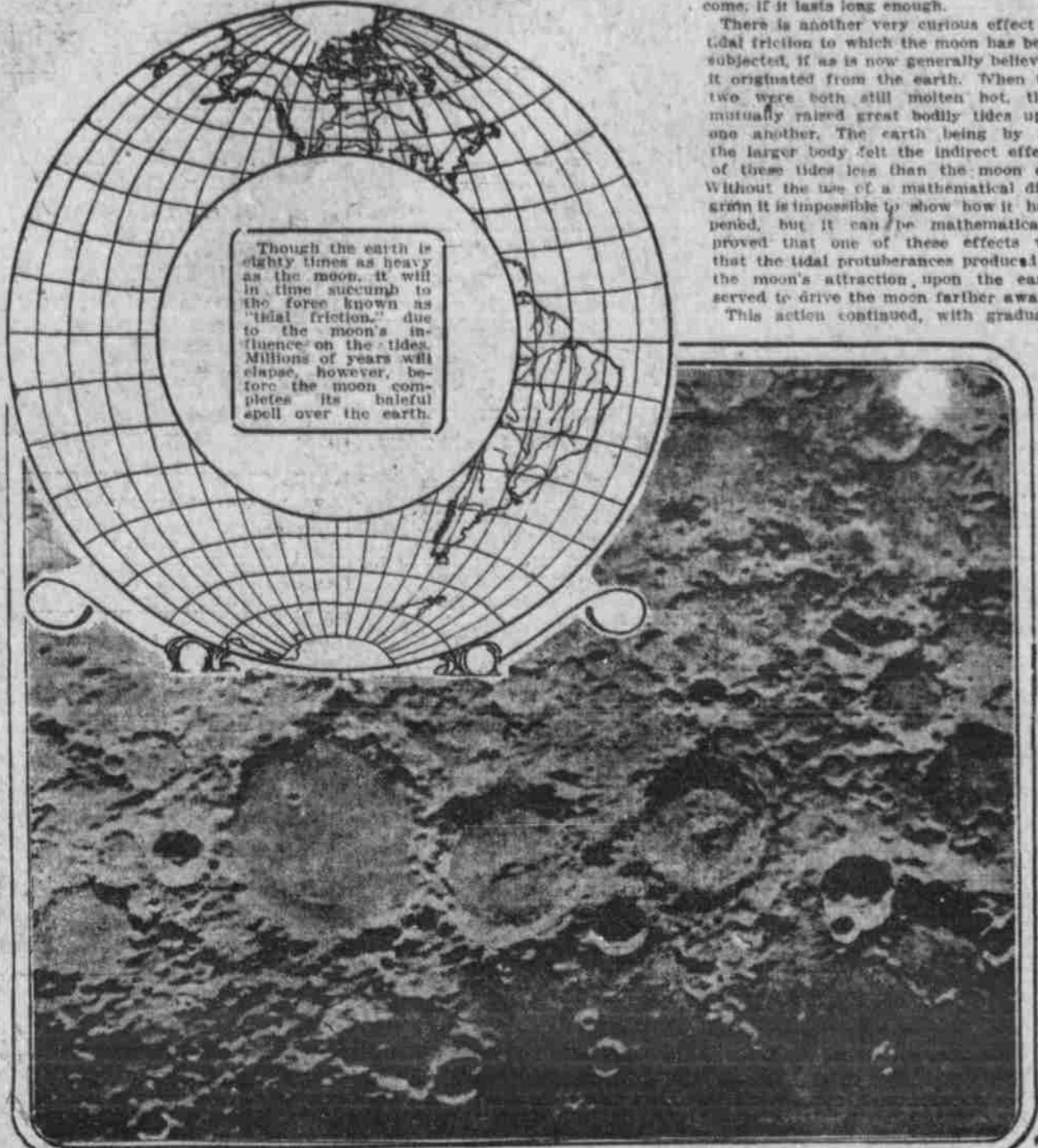


The Bee's Home Magazine Page

The Moon's Weird Spell

In Time Its Influence Will Cause the Earth to Keep One Face Always Toward It



Above, the earth and the moon, showing their relative sizes, and, below, a telescopic photograph of the surface of the moon.

By GARBETT P. SERVIS.

To many persons it seems strange why the moon always shows the same face to the earth. The explanation is rather complicated. The moon owes the effect to which it has fallen, that of being compelled to keep always the same face toward the earth, to a force known as "tidal friction," which is a kind of brake applied to all bodies rotating on an axis in the presence of another body that pulls upon them by gravitation. The earth itself, feels this brake of tidal friction, which is screwed on, as if in vengeful spirit, by the moon, and the time will come when our proud planet will, in its turn, be compelled to keep always one face toward its now submissive, but then triumphant, satellite.

When that remote epoch arrives the day and the month will be of equal length, and the earth and the moon, starting into one another's immovable faces, will stiffly tread the solemn round about their common center of gravity, as if they were a pair of mules harnessed to the opposite ends of a revolving rod.

That the tidal "wave" raised by the moon in the earth's oceans should act as a brake upon our rotating globe will be evident to you if you watch the billows rolling in upon the shore when the tide is rising, and reflect that their force must, upon the whole, be directed in opposition to the earth's motion of rotation, for the general direction in which the tide wave travels is from east to west, while the earth rotates from west to east. The final result must be the lengthening of the day, but the force of the tidal friction is so small relatively to the force of the earth's rotation that many millions of years will elapse before its effects become practically evident.

But, you may say, if tidal friction is so slight how can it already have curbed the rotation of the moon? The answer is that it was not slight in its action upon the moon in the early stages of its history. In the first place the tidal force of the earth upon the moon is about eighty times as great as the tidal force of the moon upon the earth. This results from the fact that the earth is eighty times as heavy as the moon. In the next place there is little doubt that ages ago the moon was a mass of molten rock, revolving round the earth much closer than it is today. In fact, there is reason to think that the moon is a piece of the earth, flung off at a time when both were yet composed of semi-liquid, or plastic material.

When the moon was plastic the attraction of the earth produced upon it enormous tides, which were not confined, like those of today, to the surface film of liquid, but which distorted the entire body of the moon. The braking action of such tides would be tremendous, and the con-

sequence was that, probably before it had solidified, the moon lost nearly all its rotational motion around its axis, and began to keep one side always toward the earth. It may be that the globe of the moon, when its rotation was thus arrested, became permanently drawn out into an egg-shaped figure, having its longer axis pointed toward the earth. The earth escaped the fate that it inflicted upon its satellite and child because of its vastly greater mass, which enabled it to retain its rotational force in spite of tidal friction. But, as I have already mentioned, the earth's turn will

lessening effect, as long as there were bodily tides raised by the moon upon the earth. Such tides must have lasted longer on the earth than on the moon, because of the vastly greater mass of the earth, which would require a longer time to solidify than the relatively small moon. Thus, for many ages, the moon continued to be repelled from the earth by the reaction of the very tides which it itself produced. Even today it can be shown that our oceanic tides exercise extremely slight, yet calculable force, tending to drive the moon still further from its mother earth.

Alimony as Form of Graft

By ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

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Charles L. Guy of the New York supreme court has come forth with a protest against giving divorced wives large alimonies. It is time some strong voice was raised in protest against this reflection upon dignified womanhood.

This subject of alimony should have been taken up by the suffragettes long ago, and an anti-alimony organization should have been formed by them. When a woman separates from her husband it is usually because she has ceased to care for him, ceased to respect him and ceased to feel confidence in his honor. How can she permit a man of whom she entertains such an opinion to pay her money in a question of "the emancipated" to answer.

When such a husband has left a child to be supported it is reasonable and right that he should do his part toward the maintenance of that child; but the majority of women receiving alimony today seem to be childless women, and Judge Guy makes many pertinent comments regarding these women, as follows:

"In fixing permanent alimony it should be borne in mind that the husband, although guilty of grave misconduct, is still a human being. If he is to be made the producing machinery for the support of the woman who is no longer his wife and who gives nothing in return, he must not be assessed so heavily as to deprive him of all incentive to go on living and producing. He must be ac-

corded the means not only to go on living, but to find some enjoyment and compensation in life.

"If he has not this opportunity, if the burden placed upon him is too grievous to be borne, all the incentive to labor is gone. When alimony is excessive it is likely to defeat its own object. It is better for the divorced wife to be granted moderate alimony which will be paid than excessive alimony which probably will be avoided.

"Any adult person who receives benefits from another without wishing and trying to return a full equivalent is grafting, whether such person be wife, child, husband, friend or stranger. Grafting is taking without giving an honest equivalent. The women and grown children of our well-to-do middle class furnish rather conspicuous examples of this evil. It is not limited to a certain class of officeholders."

And, again, he says: "While the divorced husband still retains his right to find some enjoyment in life, the woman who divorced him must not expect to go on enjoying all the benefits that go with a happy and successful married life. She no longer performs any reciprocal duty. There is no obligation resting upon her as an equivalent for maintenance, therefore she is not entitled to be a luxurious charge upon the income of the man to whom she makes no return of any kind."

The wife who has been left an invalid through her husband's cruelty, or vice, should be paid alimony until such time as she is able to support herself; and she should pray and work for that hour of emancipation from a degrading dependence.

For it is an undeniable degradation for any woman to be supported by a man she does not love, and whose companionship she cannot endure.

Nobility of Work

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

Do you exist to take pleasure out of life or to bring action to it? Do you rise unwillingly in the morning, or do you fling off the covers with a joyful anxiety to be up and doing your part in the march of events?

Everything in the world, from plants and flowers to birds and bees work up to the scale of humanity, has work to do to put its particular section of the universe in order. Are you willing to do your share?

The work of a human being may be the simple task of digging a ditch or the lofty and elaborate calculation that leads to the discovery of a new star. Whatever your work is, rest assured it has its part in the scheme of things. Perhaps all your life long you will dig your ditch splendidly and well, and yet rise to no bigger thing.

Even if a material reward does not come to you, is there not a glowing satisfaction in throwing off your covers and rising with warm enthusiasm to your "ditch digging"? The actual consciousness that you have a part in the work of the world and that you are doing well is a reward beyond any crown of laurel. No external can ever matter as much as the internal joy of being at peace with your own soul and knowing that you are doing your actual best.

In any machine the most trifling bearing may have as important a place of value as great as the huge whirling belt or powerful dynamo. In the march of humanity to some goal we do not yet fully understand in the growth of life "the least of these" fills as important a place as the monarchs of the earth.

The work of a human being is splendid and fine or poor and ignoble according to whether it is done well or ill. The task does not matter; how you do the task matters very intensely.

The folk who find work that is in accordance with their own nature have already half accomplished it. For congenial work fairly sings in the doing, but if life places an individual in a position where he must do work that seems to him far less pleasing and desirable than another task that lies off somewhere else, he must still do the work at hand and thereby, through excellent doing, come either to like it or to raise himself to a position where many choose his task.

The first work of a human being is to greet the morning with a smile, fling off the covers of the night with delight and start off with a full charged energy toward the deeds of the day.

In mere work there is honor—make up your mind to that. In work well done there is actual glory. The only dishonor and shame in all of life is to bring nothing to it. To do the work of a human being is to be part of life itself.

TOQUE OF MOLESKIN, with soft crown of velvet. Gros-grain ribbon, fancy topped by two balls of moleskin.



The Girl Who Talked Too Much

A Fable for the Foolish

By ANN LISLE.

There was once a girl who longed to go out and have a good time. She longed with almost equal fervor to have the world think she was going out to have a good time.

It seemed to her that the summits of popularity and success could be reached by being seen in the midst of a gayly dressed throng at a gayly decked restaurant. And so she spent all her savings on a very wonderful evening gown that should make her the gayest of the gay throng in the gay restaurant.

And then no one invited her out. But she was not of the stuff of which failures are made. Not she! And so when all her married friends and the other girls she knew asked her what she was going to do on a certain holiday eve she replied, "Oh, I haven't decided yet. I've been invited to a little theater party, but I've seen the play twice already. I've been asked to a dance, but the man who wants to take me doesn't fox-trot. And then I've been asked to a house party in the country, but I would hate to hurry myself out of town. So I may go to a studio dance and dinner if I find it to be properly chaperoned."

On hearing of the many invitations that had come to her the people who had meant to invite her to make a fourth at bridge or help receive at a little tea, or to go with them to a dinner dance for which they had an extra ticket, promptly decided that their trifling invitation would be wasted on so popular a girl.

And the girl who wanted to seem popular sat at home and wept. For the gown on which she had spent all her savings hung in the closet, and she had not enough money left with which to buy a more satisfying dinner than a box of crackers and an apple.

Moral—Seemingly "too popular" often frightens away the invitations that might make you feel popular enough to enjoy life.

In-Shoots

Most of us have to be pretty sharp collectors to get the living that the world is supposed to owe every man.

Some girls never seem to enjoy a courtship unless the rest of the family are knocking the object of their affection.

It depends entirely upon the temperament of the subject whether a vivid imagination produces rosy day dreams or hideous nightmares.

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