

# THE FOREIGNER

By A. Conan Doyle.

There are many folk who know Alphonse Lacour in his old age. From about the time of the revolution of '48 until he died in the second year of the Crimean war, he was always to be found in the same corner of the Cafe de Provence, at the end of the Rue St. Honoré, coming down about \$ in the evening and going when he could get no one to talk with. It took some self-restraint to listen to the old diplomatist, for his stories went beyond all belief, and yet he was quick at detecting the shadow of a smile or the slightest lift of the eyebrows. Then his huge, rounded back would straighten itself, his bulldog chin would project, and his eyes would burn like a kettledrum. When he got as far as "Ah, monsieur, re-fr-ri-t or 'Vou ne me re-royez pas dans le" it was quite time to remember that you had a ticket for the opera.

There was his story of Talleyrand and the five opium pipes, and there was his utterly absurd account of Napoleon's second visit to Ajaccio. Then there was that most circumstantial romance which he never ventures upon until he has had a bottle had been unworked) of the emperor's escape from St. Helena—how he lived for a whole year in Philadelphia, while Count Herbert de Bantzard, who was his neighbor, had been exiled at Longwood. But of all his stories there was none which was more notorious than that of the Koran and the French office. He would begin by saying, "Monsieur Otto's memoirs were written it was found that there really was some foundation for old Lacour's incredible statement.

"You must be a sign," he would say, "I left Egypt after Kleber's assassination. I would gladly have stayed on, for I was engaged in a translation of the Koran, and I had some thoughts of embracing Mohammedanism, for I was deeply struck by the wisdom of their views about marriage. They had made an immense mistake, however, upon the subject of wine, and this was what the mufti who attempted to convert me could never get over. Then when old Kleber died, and Menou came to the front, it was time for me to speak of my own capacities, monsieur, but you will readily understand that I had no time to do so, for I was not to be ridden by the mule. I carried my Koran and my papers to London, where Monsieur Otto had been sent by the first consul to arrange a treaty of peace for both nations very weary of the war, which had already lasted ten years. Here I was most useful to Monsieur Otto, and I was my knowledge of the English tongue, and also, if I may say so, on account of my natural capacity. They were happy days during which I lived in the square of Bligny, in Paris. The climate of monsieur's country, it must be confessed, detestable. But then, what would you have? Flowers grow best in the rain. One has but to point to monsieur's fellow countrymen to prove it.

"Well, Monsieur Otto, our ambassador was kept terribly busy over that treaty, and all of his staff were engaged in it. We had not time to deal with that, and perhaps as well for us. He was a terrible man, that Pitt, and wherever half a dozen enemies of France were plotting together, there was his sharp-pointed nose right in the middle of them. The nation, however, had been thoughtful enough to put him out of office, and we had to do with Monsieur Addison. But Monsieur Harkness was the foreign minister, and it was with him that we were obliged to do our bargaining.

"You can understand that it was no child's play. After ten years of war each nation had got hold of a great deal which had belonged to the other, or to the allies. What was to be done? It was a matter of life and death. This is the island worth peninsula? If we do this at Venice will you do that at Sierra Leone? If we give up Egypt to the Sultan, will you restore the Cape of Good Hope, which you have taken from our allies, the Dutch? So we wrangled and wrangled, and I have seen Monsieur Otto come back to the embassy so exhausted that his secretary and I had to help him from his carriage to his sofa. But at last things adjusted themselves, and the treaty came round when the treaty was to be finally signed.

"Now, you must know that the one great card which we held, and which we played, played, played at every point of the game was that we had Egypt. The English were very nervous about our being there. It gave us a foot on each side of the Mediterranean, you see. And they were not sure that that wonderful little Napoleon of ours might not make it the base of an advance against India. So whenever Lord Harkness proposed to retain anything, we would only reply, "In that case, of course, we cannot consent to evacuate Egypt, and in this way we quickly brought him to reason. It was the English who were to give up the island, which were remarkably favorable, and especially that we caused the English to consent to give up the Cape of Good Hope, which was a great triumph for us, monsieur, to have any foothold in South Africa, for history has taught us that the British foothold of one-half century is the British empire of the next. It is not your army or your navy that we care for, we have to guard, but it is your terrible young son and your man in a career. When we French have a possession across the sea, we do not care to let it go, and to felicitate ourselves upon it. You take your wives and your children, and you run away to see what kind of a place this may be, and after that you might as well try to take that old square of Bloomsbury away from you.

"Well, it was upon the 1st of October that the treaty was signed. The next morning I was congratulating Monsieur Otto upon the happy conclusion of his labors. He was a little pale shrump of a man, very quick and nervous, and he had a great deal to say about it. He said that he could not still, but his own about the room chattering and laughing, while I sat on a cushion in the corner of the room, and I followed him as he went, and he fell senseless upon the floor. I ran to him, as did the courier, and between us we carried him to a sofa. He might have been dead from his appearance, but I could feel his heart throbbing beneath my palm.

# THE NEXT GREAT TELESCOPE

## A Mammoth Ten-Foot Reflector Focuses the Attention of Astronomers.

### THE GIANT OF PLANET GAZERS

#### Features of the New Instrument Which Sir Howard Grubb Proposes to Construct—Accuracy Secured by Suspension in Water.

(Copyright, 1894, by McClure.)  
LONDON, Nov. 11.—The next great telescope focuses the attention of contemporary astronomers and the wonder of the public in general will be a giant among its kind. It is now being widely discussed here as the great ten-foot reflector, and will have a diameter of ten feet, a length of eighty feet and weigh somewhere between fifty and 100 tons, most probably the latter. Among all the big tubes now pointed at the heavens there is no one so big as very much in the position of the first 100-ton gun as compared with the smaller ones which preceded it, and its most interesting scientific aspect will be the departure which it represents from existing methods of construction, as well as the influence it will have upon the plans for the great telescopes of the future and the new knowledge of the universe which will come to us through them.

When the family of Sir William Herschel held tea parties and memorial services in the big four-foot tube, then dissolved, which had been the source of all his wonderful discoveries, they doubtless thought that the limit of size in telescopes had therein been reached, but from the discussion now in progress it appears that our telescopes may be made of a size which will be far beyond anything that has ever been attempted. Sir Howard Grubb's great tube is to be suspended in water, the chances of the Martians seems to be taking at least a tangible form.

### REFRACTORS AND REFLECTORS.

The idea of a ten-foot reflecting telescope was first broached by the English who have announced it as one of the marvels of the coming exposition of 1900. This announcement attracted wide attention, because the French have been devoting much labor of late to the perfection of the reflector, and from the standpoint of photography, which is the all important sphere of coming astronomical work, the reflector has a future before it which its incomplete development has hitherto tended to greatly limit. The difference between a refracting and a reflecting telescope is wide, and for many years refractors have enjoyed the unquestioned preference of observers, and have consequently been the source of most of the advances made in astronomical knowledge. A refractor, like the Lick or the Yerkes, for example, has a large object glass at the outer end of the tube, which reflects or bends the rays of light from a heavenly body which fall upon it, so as to concentrate or focus them at the other end of the tube where the magnifying lens or eye piece is fixed and gazed through by the observer. The reflector, on the contrary, has no glass at the outer end, but a mirror of the most perfect construction at the bottom, the mirror being of such a concave parabolic shape that it reflects all the light back to the tube, and directly or indirectly focuses it at the eye piece before the observer gazes at the reflected light through the side of the tube. Both the refractor and reflector have their special disadvantages, the difficulty in the former being what is called the chromatic aberration, which means the difficulty if not impossibility of bringing the different rays of light to a common focus, and the great problem in reflector construction is by improvement of the glass used, to do away with this aberration.

There is another difficulty, however, which with recent improvements in the reflector, has created a new and great opportunity for

the next. Presently he got his mouth partly free from the cravat.  
"You can have my watch and my purse if you will let me go," said he.  
"Sir, as an honorable a man as you are yourself."  
"Who are you, then?"  
"What name is of no importance."  
"What do you want with me?"  
"It is a bet."  
"A bet? What do you mean? Do you understand that I am on the government side, and that you will see the inside of a jail for this?"  
"That is the bet. That is the sport," said I.  
"You may find it poor sport before you finish," he cried. "What is this insane bet of yours, then?"  
"I have bet," I answered, "that I will recite a chapter of the Koran to the first gentleman whom I should meet in the street."  
"I do not know what made me think of it, but I have bet," he exclaimed, "for any sum that my tradition was always running in my head. He clutched at my hand, and again I had to hurl him back into his seat.  
"How long will it take?" he gasped.  
"It depends on the chapter," I answered.  
"A short one, then, and let me go."  
"It is fair," argued I. "When I say a chapter I do not mean the shortest chapter, but rather one which should be of average length."  
"Help! help!" he squealed, and I was compelled again to adjust his cravat.  
"A little patience," said I, "and it will soon be over. I should like to recite the chapter which you are most interested in yourself. You will confer most of me to make things as pleasant as I can for you."  
"He slipped his mouth free again."  
"Quick, then, quick!" he groaned.  
"The chapter of the camel?" I suggested.  
"Yes, yes."  
"Or that of the fleet stallion?"  
"Yes, yes. Only proceed!"  
"We had passed the window and there was no candle, I settled down to recite the chapter of the stallion in my own mind, and he had stopped the bleeding of my own nose. I looked out of the coach, and ah, monsieur, the very first thing which caught my eyes was that coachman who requires an exactness of adjustment and clock work motion, to counteract the motion of the earth and keep them fixed in exactly the same relative position to the object photographed. The great telescope which I have just described, which is almost impossible to obtain with the great tube and augmented weight now desired. The great reflectors of the future, however, will be of a weight at all mechanically speaking, because they will be floated in water. This strange and novel principle, due to the invention of Dr. Common, is impossible in the case of refractors, because the observer would necessarily be at the bottom of the water, but with reflectors it shows every promise of availability and enduring success. Consequently all the great reflectors of the future will probably be tank telescopes, and this principle has been already put in practice in the telescope mounting that has yet appeared.

SIR HOWARD GRUBB, as a telescope maker occupies the highest rank. His whole life has been devoted to the study of telescopes and their mounting, and his works at Dublin have built among others the great Vienna telescope, the great Melbourne reflector, and many others of less note, including a twenty-eight inch refractor for Greenwich observatory, which he has just completed, and a twenty-six inch refractor in great demand for the same observatory which he has in hand. He is also engaged in refitting the Edinburgh observatory, and as a maker and authority on telescopes is in great demand in Europe. He was the inventor of many of the devices used in mounting the Lick and Yerkes, and his adoption and indorsement of the floating principle are consequently full evidence of its practicability. His analysis of the advantages of and objections to this method, in a recent lecture at the Royal Society, show pretty clearly, however, that the ten-foot monster, estimates and designs for which he has been requested to make from the different societies, will in the course of time be leading the way in

than strain it into doing 5 degrees more of work that would only be of use on rare occasions."  
"What kind of a reflector will it be?"  
"THE KIND OF REFLECTOR."  
"I have designed it on the Newtonian plan. In all reflectors the light passes down the tube to a concave mirror, which reflects it and would bring it to a focus in the center of the tube at a distance depending upon the shape of the mirror. Before coming to a focus, however, the light received on a small mirror and again reflected to an eye piece located in a convenient position for observation. In the Gregorian form this small mirror is placed in the upper end of the tube from it down the tube through a hole in the center of the large mirror. The eye piece is placed in this hole, and the observer looks up the tube in a manner precisely similar to that necessary with an ordinary reflector. In the Cassegrain form the small reflector is placed in the upper end of the tube, and the light is shown through the center of the large mirror and the direction of observation is exactly the same. It is obvious from these details that the form of the floating telescope. The other form is that known as the Newtonian, in which the light from the large mirror is received on a small flat mirror placed in the upper end of the tube and inclined at an angle of 45 degrees. The image of the object looked at is thus formed at the side of the tube, through a hole in which it is observed. This form has the lower end of the tube completely closed, and is especially suitable for the method of suspension which I propose. This form is a drawback."  
"Oh, no. It cuts off a little light, but does not interfere with the definition in any way. It would have a diameter of one foot at the outside, and in a tube of ten feet the light thus cut off from a given field of vision, would be of no practical importance."  
"What will be the size of the large mirror?"  
"A TEN-FOOT MIRROR."  
"About ten feet in diameter. If, as I

### GREAT TWENTY-SEVEN INCH REFLECTOR, ROYAL OBSERVATORY AT VIENNA.

the latter. This is the demand of astronomical photography for instruments of larger and larger optical power and size. Great telescopes of this kind require an exactness of adjustment and clock work motion, to counteract the motion of the earth and keep them fixed in exactly the same relative position to the object photographed. The great telescope which I have just described, which is almost impossible to obtain with the great tube and augmented weight now desired. The great reflectors of the future, however, will be of a weight at all mechanically speaking, because they will be floated in water. This strange and novel principle, due to the invention of Dr. Common, is impossible in the case of refractors, because the observer would necessarily be at the bottom of the water, but with reflectors it shows every promise of availability and enduring success. Consequently all the great reflectors of the future will probably be tank telescopes, and this principle has been already put in practice in the telescope mounting that has yet appeared.

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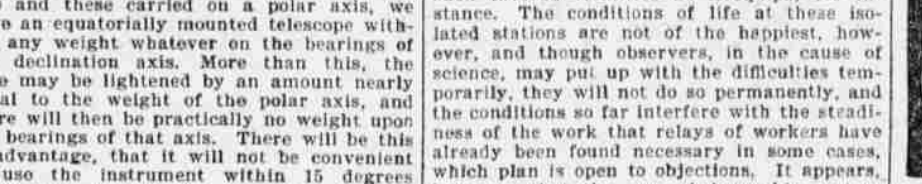
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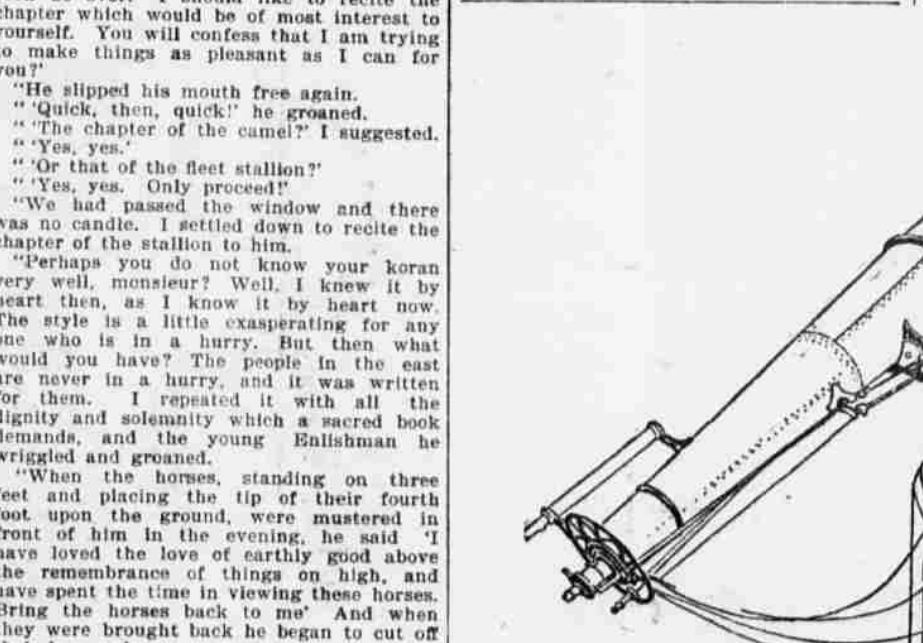
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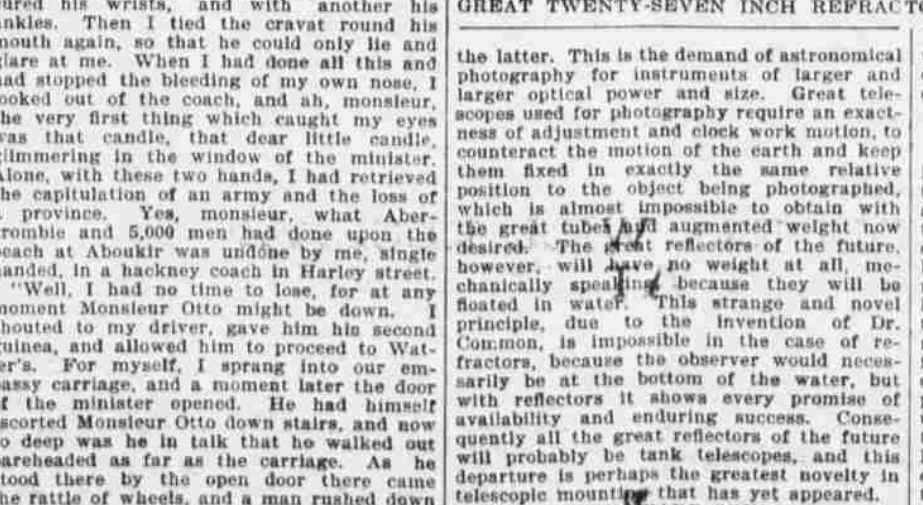
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