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H. K. N.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Eta Kapa Nu, honorary electrical engineering fraternity, is sponsoring the writing of magazine articles among its members. Professor K. Y. Tang, faculty adviser, has offered a prize of five dollars for the best article, and the editor of *The Ohio State Engineer* has promised to publish the best ones. The following is the first of a series.

THE EARTH

By EMERSON W. GARLING, E. E. 4

The Earth is the third planet in the solar system, but is by no means the most important planet in the system. There is no reason to suppose that it is particularly distinguished from the others by being inhabited. It is reasonable, therefore, to conclude that all the other planets of the system are filled with living, moving and sentient beings; and as some of them are superior to the earth in size and position, it is not improbable that their inhabitants may be superior to us in physical and mental organization.

However if this were a demonstrable fact, instead of a mere hypothesis, it would be found a very difficult matter to persuade us of its truth. To the inhabitants of Venus the Earth appears like a brilliant star—very much, in fact, as Venus appears to us; and reasoning from analogy, we are led to believe that the election of Mr. Pierce, the European war, or the split of the great Republican party produced but very little excitement among them.

The Earth moves around the Sun from west to east in a year, and turns on its axis in a day, thus moving at the rate of 68,000 miles an hour in its orbit, and rolling around at the tolerably rapid rate of 1,040 miles per hour. As all of us have seen that when a man is galloping a horse violently over a smooth road, if the horse from viciousness or other cause suddenly stops, the man keeps on at the same rate over the animal's head; so we, supposing the Earth to be suddenly arrested on its axis, men, women, children, horses, cattle, sheep and donkeys, editors and members of Congress, with all our goods and chattels, would be thrown off into the air at a speed of 173 miles a minute, and every one of us describing the arc of a parabola, which is probably the only description we should ever be able to give of the affair.

This catastrophe, to one sufficiently collected to enjoy it, would, doubtless, be exceedingly amusing; but as there would probably be no time for laughing, we can pray that it may not occur until after our demise; when, should it take place, our monument will probably accompany the movement.

Science is but yet in its infancy; with its growth, new discoveries of an astounding nature will doubtless be made, among which, probably, will be some method by which the course of the Earth may be altered and it be steered with the same ease and regularity through space and among the stars as a steamboat is now directed through the water.

It will be a very interesting spectacle to see the Earth "rounding to," with her head in the air, off Jupiter, while the Moon is sent off laden with mails and passengers for that planet, to bring back the return mails and a large party of rowdy Jupiterians going to attend a grand prize fight in the ring of Saturn.