

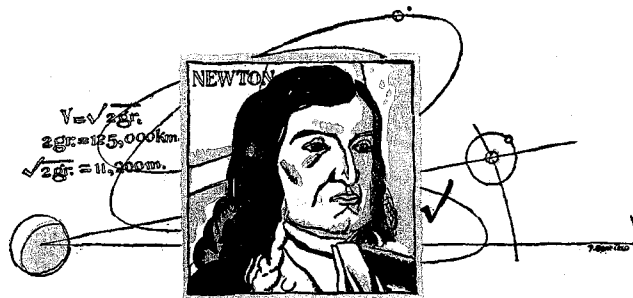
In this brief article I have indicated the progress that has already been made in the development of rocket ships and have hinted at some of the major difficulties that still have to be overcome before the astronaut's dream of conquering the magnificent distances of interstellar space can become a reality. Many of my readers will undoubtedly think that I was indulging in a bit of pure fantasy when I pictured some of the strange sensations and adventures of the cosmic tourist on a visit to Mars. Fantasy it is, at present; but some of the most level-headed scientists are convinced that it is not too fantastic for the future. They point to the experiments of Professor Goddard, which have established the basic principles on which rockets have already been constructed for the exploration of the Earth's upper atmosphere. They say it is more improbable to suppose that nothing further can be developed upon these principles than to suppose that the field they have opened up will be diligently explored and conquered.*

* In connection with this point the reader may recall an item which appeared in the newspapers on July 16. Clark University,

At the same time the astrophysicists are telling us that the Earth must ultimately be reduced to a cold cinder swimming around the sun. The atmosphere will disappear. Oceans and lakes will dry up. What will then be the destiny of the human race? Must the last man die of starvation and thirst?

Long before that time is at hand the rocket ship, now in its infancy, may be man's answer to the threat of ultimate extinction. By the time the Earth has become senile and unlivable, Venus will be ripe for habitation. So it may happen, æons hence, that Venus may be colonized by the Earth as America was once colonized by Europe, and the Earth will be left to wheel around its orbit an abandoned planetary wreck.

Worcester, Mass., announced that Daniel Guggenheim had made a substantial grant of money to enable Professor Robert H. Goddard to carry on his experiments with rockets. That the scientific world no longer regards the future navigation of interstellar space as a mere dreamer's vision is also borne out by John Q. Stewart, Associate Professor of Astronomical Physics at Princeton. In a lecture before the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences on April 11, 1930, Professor Stewart predicted that the rocket ship would eventually be perfected so that astronomers could make actual flights to the Moon.



If There Be

*If there be any compass that may draw,
Whether in sea, in air, or underground,
Circumference that may evade the law
Of the circle's being, inexorably bound
By thrice three-pointed wave and star and flower;
If there be any magnet that will tell
What way the equator runs, or if the hour
Of the Martian year be struck from steeple bell;
If lightning follow thunder, if the pole
Waver no jot in twice seven thousand years,
If lunar caves breed whales, or if the whole
Blue globe be drained of the bright seas it wears:
I shall consider how my heart may move
To some new rhythm, being unversed in love.*

— **Henriette de Saussure Blanding**

Adventures of a Dictator

At the Deathbed of an Empire

IN HIS August and September articles Mr. Sands told of his first years in Korea and how he came to be the confidential adviser of the Korean Emperor. From 1898 to 1900 he was secretary to the American legation at Seoul, the capital city. Those were the years immediately following the war between China and Japan, and immediately preceding the war between Japan and Russia. In both struggles Korea was the fought-for prize in a three-cornered contest. With China eliminated, Japan and Russia were ready to spring at each other's throats. Meanwhile the Emperor of Korea was trying to save his country. He needed help, and needed it badly; so he asked Sands, then a confident youngster of twenty-four, to become his official adviser. Without hesitation he accepted, and in this article he recalls some of the adventures which befell him during the next four years, when, with valiant courage, he tried single-handed to stem the tide of inevitable disaster which broke full force in 1904.



by **WILLIAM FRANKLIN SANDS**

JUST AS I had to learn to know the Korean nobles by living intimately with them and sharing their unofficial lives, so I had to discover the lower people in the provinces by going out incognito, without a suite, and living among them whenever I could. As adviser to the Emperor I had to know the country I was trying to help.

There was the making of a good man in the Korean peasant. He was worth saving; and the more I saw of him, the more I was determined to stand by him and see what one man could do about it. I had no sympathy with torture, the old-time method of keeping order in the provinces. Koreans did not need torture, for they were peaceful and harmless unless driven to desperation by abuse. Whenever I heard of such a procedure, I appeared swiftly and administered the same sort of despotic justice myself to the culprit official — only without torture.

There was one hard-bitten old miscreant who refused to come up to Seoul, the capital, to explain charges of this kind against him, or even to receive me if I went down to the coun-

I try to visit him. I decided to take him by surprise and planned to catch him at dawn, when his gates opened, before he was aware of me. Once inside, I proposed to be very fierce with him indeed; if I could confront him before he had had time to dress, I intended to take full advantage of his embarrassment as a means of bringing him to terms.

One of my men who knew the country told me that I needn't wait for the gates to open, but could ride straight in through the back garden, which was without a wall. I followed this plan, but the tables were turned against me most completely. I suddenly found myself face to face with the old man in the very first stages of his early morning toilet; it was I who was embarrassed, and I had to ride right through, pretending not to see him. It turned out all right, however, for he was too terrified at the sight of my armed riders to take advantage of my barbarous breach of etiquette. We reached an accord and he promised to be good. They generally did out in the country when I had a chance to explain what I wanted for Korea and