LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EXPEDITION INTO SPACE

To the Editor of The New York Times:

According to newspaper clippings that I have received, there is, as to the substance that fell from the sky on Feb. 12 in Minnesota, such a disagreement among scientists, who microscopically and spectroscopically, and in some more ways, examined it, that there is room for opinion from somebody who is three or four thousand miles away and neither saw, smelled nor ate any of it.

Obviously this material was and was not organic substance. It all depends upon which accounts one reads. But, instead of being altogether an absurdity, this is a paradox. Anything may be itself and its own opposite if it be not homogeneous, and, according to many notes of mine upon falls from the sky, organic matter may have fallen in some places and inorganic matter in other places in Minnesota.

The composition of the specimens that were examined by Miss Josephine E. Tilden, Professor of Botany at the University of Minnesota, was largely diatomaceous, and the diatoms, minute forms of life with silicious shells, were distorted by intense heat. The indications are that there had been a submarine eruption somewhere.

If there had been a volcanic eruption upon land of this earth it might never be recorded. I have records of eruptions in the South Sea Islands and in Kamchatka that were not published until years after the outbursts. But if anywhere in an ocean of this earth there has been a tremendous disturbance that could discharge all the way to Minnesota, accompanying it would have been the phenomenon known as a "tidal wave," and it and the destruction of it would have been reported from many places. Nothing of this kind was reported in the month of February.

tremendous submarine eruption somewhere, but that it was not upon this earth. In Miss Tilden's opinion, the diatoms that were examined by her were distinctly of marine origin.

Suppose the eruption were upon the planet Mars. But Mars is millions of miles away, we are told. An enormous volume of dust came down from the sky, rather strictly localized, upon the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. If considering that the forces of disperson are universal, we cannot think that this volume could have remained so without scattering into imperceptibility for months or years while traversing space over a distance of millions of miles. There is nothing but conventional science, which, like everything else, is an evolving thing and will not be tomorrow what it is today, to oppose the idea that this vast, thick cloud did not travel a distance of millions of miles, but came from some other world so close to this earth that a terrestrial expedition could reach it.

I am collecting data upon arrivals upon this earth of objects and substances that have, but in a skyward sense, all the significance of the strange objects and substances that reached the coasts of Spain from unknown westward lands before the year 1492. If readers who know of such occurrences will send information to me, at my present address, 39A Marchmont Street, W. C., London, England, they will help to develop either one more fallacy and some more of this world's almost utter nonsense, or a new idea that may make some history. I have many other records that indicate that things have come to this earth from other worlds that may be but a few thousand miles away, and there is such a growing interest in this subject that the project of organizing an expedition to sail out into the unknown and find out what's there, may result in an actual undertaking. There are data that indicate that space beyond this earth may not, in all parts, be intensely cold.

CHARLES FORT. London, March 4, 1926.