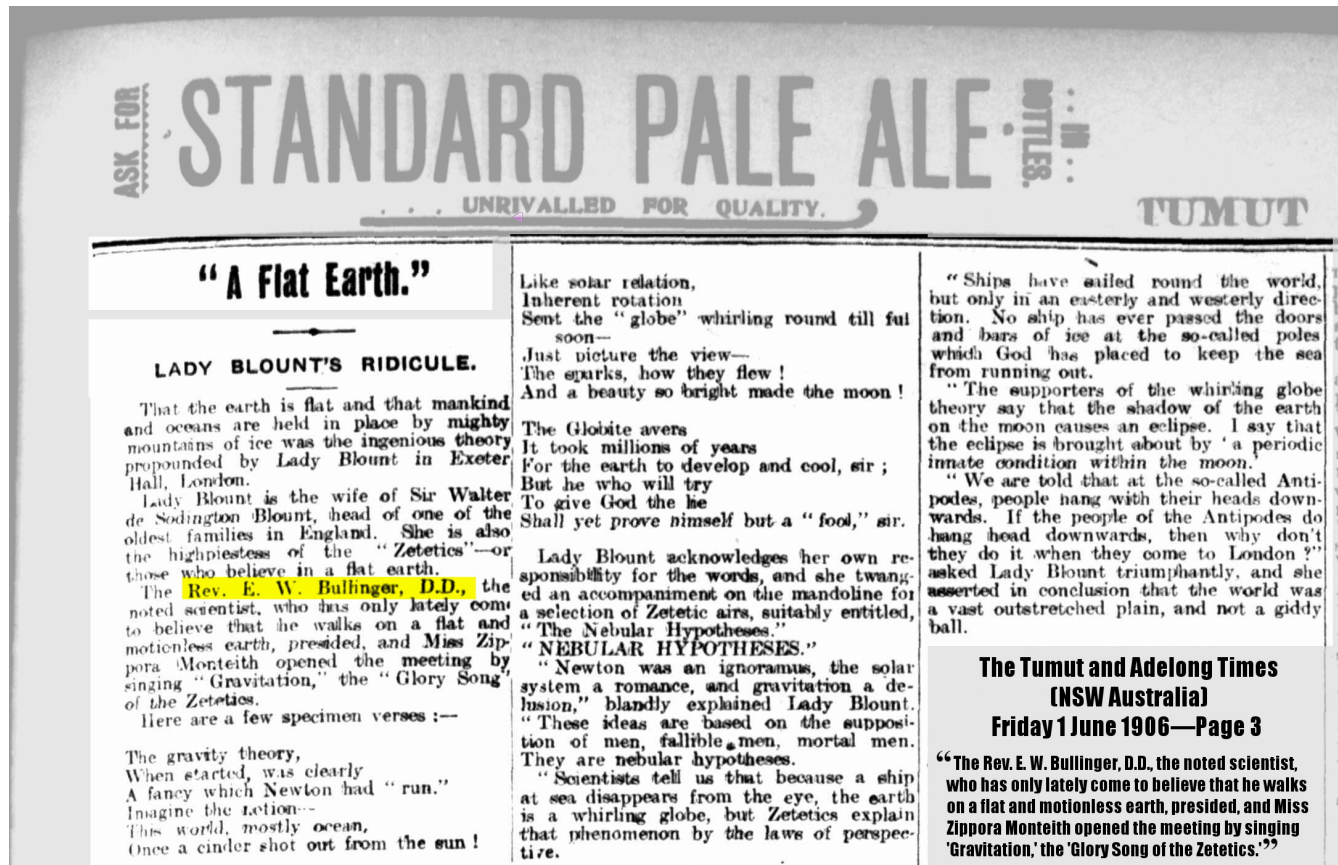


Ethelbert William Bullinger: A Documented *Flat-Earther*!



By Kevin Hobby

I managed to locate a distinguished 1906 Australian newspaper article (housed on their government servers) which states, in no uncertain terms, that E. W. Bullinger believed that Earth was flat and motionless:

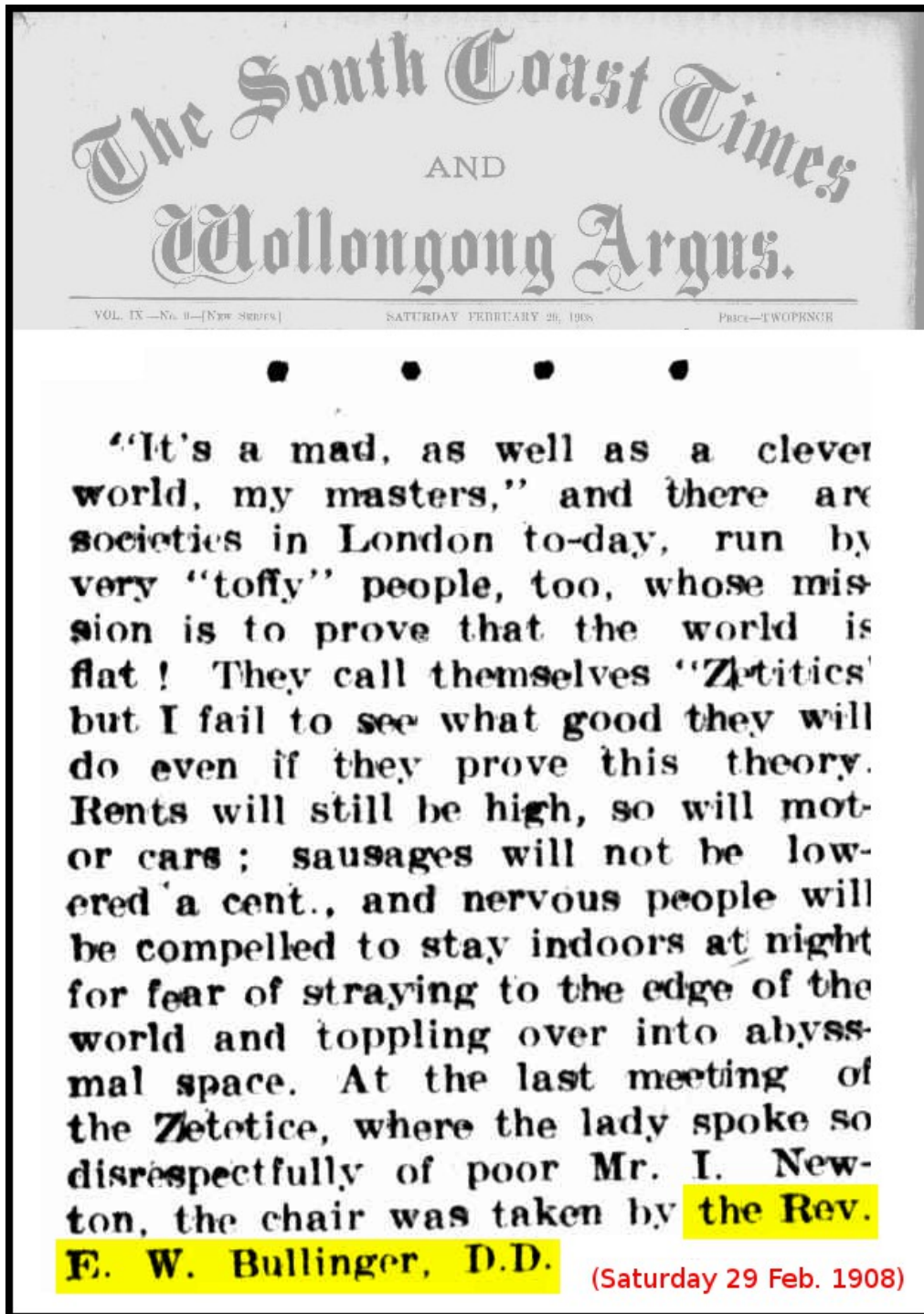


Excerpt: "The Rev. E. W. Bullinger, D.D., the noted scientist, who has only lately come to believe that he walks on a flat and motionless earth, presided, and Miss Zippora Monteith opened the meeting by singing 'Gravitation,' the 'Glory Song of the Zetetics.'"

The fact that Rev. E. W. Bullinger, D.D. presided over this flat-earth meeting at Exeter Hall in London (the same hall where his Trinitarian Bible Society was formed) has been documented in six different newspapers as follows:

1. Dungog Chronicle
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/138183788?searchTerm=Bullinger%20%22flat%20earth%22&searchLimits=>
2. The Express and Telegraph
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/209107537?searchTerm=Bullinger%20%22flat%20earth%22&searchLimits=>
3. Geelong Advertiser
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/150083991?searchTerm=Bullinger%20%22flat%20earth%22&searchLimits=>
4. Sunday Times
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/125872642?searchTerm=Bullinger%20%22flat%20earth%22&searchLimits=>
5. The Tumut and Adelong Times
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/139083752?searchTerm=Bullinger%20%22flat%20earth%22&searchLimits=>
6. South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/142018045?searchTerm=Bullinger%20%22zetetic%22&searchLimits=>

Here's a facsimile of an excerpt of newspaper number six (listed above):



"'It's a mad, as well as a clever world, my masters,' and there are societies in London to-day, run by very 'toffy' people, too, whose mission is to prove that the world is flat! They call themselves 'Zetetics' but I fail to see what good they will do even if they prove this theory. Rents will still be high, so will motor cars; sausages will not be lowered a cent., and nervous people will be compelled to stay indoors at night for fear of straying to the edge of the world and toppling over into abyssmal space. At the last meeting of the Zetetics, where the lady spoke so disrespectfully of poor Mr. I. Newton, the chair was taken by the Rev. E. W. Bullinger, D.D."

There is another unrelated newspaper article from The Daily News and Darling Downs Gazette which mentions a "Dr. Bullinger" in the same sentence as "Lady Blount" (it even states that Lady Blount was "a believer of the flat-earth theory"). It's about how she and the elderly "Dr. Bullinger" were swindled out of thousands of dollars (just two years before he died in 1913).

1. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/80207513?searchTerm=Bullinger%20%22flat%20earth%22&searchLimits=>

2. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/182701730?searchTerm=%22Bullinger%22%20%22Blount%22&searchLimits=>

The following excerpt is from "The Plane Truth" (by Bob Schadewald):

“Bullinger’s first appearance in flat-earth annals was probably in 1873, when one 'E.B.' of 'the Vicarage' wrote a flat letter published in the June 1873 Zetetic. In 1877, he subscribed for six copies of Carpenter’s Delusion of the Day, but he was still at pains to conceal his flat-earth sympathies (he is one of two subscribers whose names are not listed). In the premier issue of Earth Review, there was the following quote from Bullinger (incorrectly identified as 'Rev. W. E. Bullinger, D.D.'): 'I AGREE with you in your contention respecting the Earth; for my motto has long been, ‘Let God be true and every man a liar.’”


A larger excerpt can be found at the following link; it mentions E. W. Bullinger eight times as it chronicles his conversion to the flat-earth paradigm:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/szoq1wsh20h4s5n/Excerpt%20of%20The_Plane_Truth%20by%20Bob%20Schadewald.pdf?dl=0

E. W. Bullinger is stated to have been a “well-known member” of a flat-earth society in the following Wikipedia article entitled “Flat Earth”:


Flat Earth

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



After Rowbotham's death, Lady Elizabeth Blount created the [Universal Zetetic Society](#) in 1893 in England and created a journal called *Earth not a Globe Review*, which sold for twopence, as well as one called *Earth*, which only lasted from 1901 to 1904. She held that the Bible was the unquestionable authority on the natural world and argued that one could not be a Christian and believe the Earth is a globe. Well-known members included [E. W. Bullinger](#) of the [Trinitarian Bible Society](#), [Edward Haughton](#), senior moderator in natural science in [Trinity College, Dublin](#) and an archbishop. She repeated Rowbotham's experiments, generating some interesting counter-experiments, but interest declined after the First World War.^[125] The movement gave rise to several books that argued for a flat, stationary earth, including *Terra Firma* by David Wardlaw Scott.^[126]

Another reference outlining E. W. Bullinger's association with the flat-earth belief system is excerpted below from a work by Christine Garwood:



THE HISTORY OF AN INFAMOUS IDEA
FLAT
EARTH

Lady Blount was also able to draw support from the English social elite, and the first list of Universal Zetetic Society members included an archbishop, a major-general, several counts and colonels, the eminent Anglican clergyman and Bible scholar **Ethelbert William Bullinger**, and the senior moderator in natural science at Trinity College, Dublin, Dr Edward Haughton. Such members endeavoured to disseminate zetetic teaching to the public at large, and lectures with titles such as 'Evolution – What does it Mean?', 'Universal Gravitation: A Pure Assumption' and 'Are we Living on a Whirling, Flying Ball of Land and Water?' started up again. Meanwhile Lady Blount established a journal, the *Earth not a Globe Review* to act as a further mouthpiece for zetetic views. Edited by Zetetes, it was circulated worldwide with the help of staunch supporters in Ireland, Canada, America, South Africa, India, Australia and New Zealand. The only major exception was Russia where, for unknown reasons, it was banned. (p. 159)

E. W. Bullinger is listed as a committee member of a flat-earth society on page 40 of the following facsimile:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4nu3r1ptavk4f2f/Zetetic%20Astronomy%20%28Lady%20Blount%20and%20Albert%20Smith%29.pdf?dl=0>

Universal Zetetic Society,

Founded in New York in Sept., 1873, and in London in Dec., 1883 (ten years after the American), as *The Zetetic Society*, by "Parallax," and others, is now firmly established by E.A.M.B., (Lady Blount), *Ed. of The Earth*, and her army of helpers, throughout the civilized world. Many local branches of the organization have been started, during the past five years, in all the principal countries, with the exception of Russia, where *The Earth* is not allowed to circulate.

PRESIDENT: LADY E. A. M. BLOUNT,

VICE-PRESIDENT: C. DE LACY EVANS,
(M.R.C.S., Ph. D., etc., late Surgeon, Gold Coast;

Author of "Errors of Astronomy;")

(Dr. C. de Lacy Evans, was Vice-President of the Zetetic Society when first founded.)

COMMITTEE.

Rev. E. W. Bullinger, D.D.
Maj.-Gen. E. Armstrong.
Rev. E. W. Brookman.
Joseph Chamberlain, Esq.
Fredk. Evans, Esq.
Elder Miles Grant.
Dr. E. Haughton, M.D.,
*B.A., & Sen. Moderator
in Nat. Sc., Trin. Col.*

Rev. A. T. de Learsy, D.D.
C. W. Makepeace, Esq
Jno. S. McClelland, Esq.
Alex. Mc Innes, Esq.
Rev. E. V. Mulgrave.
Jonathan Nicholson, Esq.
Dr. T. E. Reid.
E. J. Shackleton, Esq.
A. E. Skellam, Esq.

Albert Smith.
Charles Smith
Isaac Smith, Esq.
John Smith, Esq.
H. H. Squire, Esq.
Archbishop C. I. Stevens,
D.D., LL.D.
A. Walter, Esq.
Capt. West.

HON. SEC. & TREAS.:

LADY E. A. M. BLOUNT, *Ed. of "The Earth,"*

11, GLOUCESTER ROAD, KINGSTON HILL, SURREY, ENGLAND;
to whom all communications should be addressed.

Our Motto.

"IN VERITATE VICTORIA."

Our Object.

*The propagation of knowledge relating to Natural Cosmogony
in confirmation of the Holy Scriptures, based upon
practical scientific investigation.*

RULES.

1.—The so-called "sciences," and especially Modern Astronomy, to be dealt with from practical data in connection with the Divine System of Cosmogony revealed by the Creator.

2.—*Members* to subscribe Six Shillings a year, which entitles them to two copies of each issue of the Society's Organ, and a copy of every paper issued by the Society. Such will also be eligible to be voted to serve on Committees, to vote on motions, and to propose (subject to Rule 1) any alteration thought to be beneficial to the Society.

3.—*If any lover of Truth desires to become a member of the Universal Zetetic Society, and cannot make it convenient to pay a subscription, it need not deter him or her from joining. Your help will be appreciated in any way that you can give it. Each one can at least help in making known the truth.*

4.—All subscriptions to the Society to be made to the Treasurer, addressed to "Zeteo," at the office of *The Earth*.

Copies of "The Earth" (the Society's Organ), may be had of the Ed., E.A.M.B. (Lady Blount), 11, Gloucester Road Kingston Hill, Surrey, England.

On May 11, 1904 Lady Anne Blount hired a commercial photographer to use a telephoto lens camera to take a picture from Welney of a large white sheet she had placed, touching the surface of the river, at Rowbotham's original position six miles away. The photographer, Edgar Clifton from Dallmeyer's studio, mounted his camera two feet above the water at Welney and was surprised to be able to obtain a picture of the target, which should have been invisible to him if Earth were spherical. Lady Blount first documented the experiment in the article within the link below:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/h6jaochy93x684o/The_Earth_47-48.pdf?dl=0

Here are E. W. Bullinger's thoughts on the experiment (which he penned to her in a letter):

With deep gratitude I beg to express my sincere thanks to each one of my friends who have been so kind as to encourage me by sending letters of congratulation regarding my photograph of the Old Bedford Canal. I should be proud to publish them all, but it would be impossible to print more than the following few extracts.

Colve Stone, N.E. June 20th, 1904.

Dear Lady Blount,—You have indeed achieved a triumph with the photo, at the Old Bedford Canal. Proof positive is at all times acceptable to the unprejudiced mind—though the prejudiced will no doubt read the account of the experiment with a deep drawn sigh. Proof positive is the Truth, and that must in the end prevail. Your persistent efforts in this cause (now crowned with unexampled success) are worthy of a public reward; and it also adds a further lustre to our ancient British motto: “Y Gwir yn erbyn y Byd” (The Truth before the world).

Yours faithfully, MAR THEOPHILUS.

(Mt. Rev. Dr. Stevens) Archbishop of Caerleon; Caerleion, etc.
and Chief Patriarch Free Prot. Ep. Ch. of Eng.

H. speaks of your photograph as “a notable piece of work,” and I agree with him that it is an unparalleled achievement.—B.

What will the scientists say to your photograph? Will it not put them in a fix?—E. H.

York Mansions. 31 May.

Dear Lady Blount,—What a *splendid* number of *The Earth* (Nos 47 & 48). Very valuable. I should like one of the photos. You have performed a work which is of *national*, not to say world-wide value.—E. W. BULLINGER, D.D.

Dear Lady Blount,—Accept my thanks for your full explanation of the photos, both of which will (figuratively) be wrapped up in lavender for future reference. Such business satisfies me more than any food, raiment, or works of art. Just imagine what effect it would have had on Parallax, Hampden, Carpenter, and others of the *old brigade* to see such a demonstration. One thing we may be sure of is, that it would have given them intense satisfaction sooner than they *will* have it. *It is a glorious victory!*—GREVILLE.

Dr. Alabone is very pleased to hear you were so successful in taking the photo of Bedford Canal.

Page 8 of the following facsimile, from a flat-earth magazine, outlines further evidence that Bullinger collaborated with a flat-earth society.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4wepftwyqgl4ost/Earth%20Not%20a%20Globe%20Review%2C%20The%20%28No.%208%2C%20July%201894%29.pdf?dl=0>

THE EARTH - NOT A GLOBE - REVIEW,

“ To Him that stretched out the Earth above the Waters ; for His mercy endureth for ever.”—Psa. 136 : 6.

No. 8.

JULY, 1894.

PRICE 2D.

H.H.S., Bayswater.—No ! we have not seen the book of Fables promised us by Mr. Score. It is perhaps not out yet. Thanks for what was forwarded. Respecting Job 26 : 7, the word “ earth ” in the Bible never includes the sea. It is not therefore, a synonym for the term “ world.” It refers to *land* only. See Gen. 1 : 10. Job is not speaking in the context of the World, but of *Sheol*, (*Hades*) and the *Abyss*. We speak of a plane being “ stretched out,” not a sphere. “ He stretcheth out the north, over *Tohu* ” (desolation—thus accurately describing the regions north long before the modern and mad attempts to reach the “ pole ”); “ and hangeth the earth (*land* only) upon (or *over*, Rev. Ver.) *Balyahma* ” (the emptiness, or nothingness of the abyss). “ Sur le néant,” French Ver. D’Ostervald Revissée. Dr. Adam Clark, a Newtonian, quotes a Chaldee version thus;—“ He layeth the earth upon the waters, nothing sustaining it.” This points to Psa. 24 : 2. **Dr. Bullinger** sends the following translation ;—“ Stretching-out the-northern-heavens over (*al*) desolation (*tohu*) ; hanging the-earth over (*al*) not-what [i.e. not anything (solid)].” And he adds ;—“ As the heavens are stretched out having nothing (apparently) to support them, so the *eretz* (earth) is hung like them and has nothing *solid* to support it. That is, air is beneath the one, and water beneath the other.”

To the right is an old leaflet which acknowledges E. W. Bullinger as a committee member of The Zetetic Society of 1883 (a flat-earth organization). I am not sure exactly where this picture came from.

A few members of the
ZETETIC Society of 1883
President - Lady E.A.M. Blount.
Vice-Pres: E. De Lacy Evans.
M.C.C., R.D., (Kegan)
COMMITTEE
Bishop. E.W. Bullinger, D.D.
Archbishop. C.I. Stevens, DD, LL.D.
Dr. E. Haughton, M.D., B.A.,
Sen. Med in Nat. Sci., Trin. Col.:
Maj-Gen: E. Armstrong-
Rev: A.T. de Learsy, D.D.

Pages 20–21 of the following facsimile quote Bullinger as stating that he agrees with the the flat-earth model outlined by the Zetetics. He is also stated to be a supporter of “true cosmogony” (i.e., flat-earth cosmogony) and an acquaintance of flat-earther David Wardlaw Scott in Scott's book:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/u3uk694kroasuwa/Sea-Earth%20Globe%2C%20The%20%28Zetetes%29.pdf?dl=0>

HONEST CONFESSIONS OF EMINENT MEN.

“ People give ear to an upstart astrologer, who strives to shew that the earth revolves in the heavens.”

“ This fellow wishes to reverse the whole (old) science of astronomy ; but the sacred Scriptures tell us that Joshua commanded the sun to stand still.”—Martin Luther in *Table Talks*.

“ Eyes are our witnesses that the heavens revolve in the space of twenty-four hours.”—Melancthon, referring to Copernicus.

“ Many who reverence the name of Copernicus, in connection with this system, would be surprised to find how much of error, unsound reasoning, and happy conjectures combine.”—*Chambers' Encyclopædia*.

“ It would be much wiser at once to pull down the whole than to continue the system of patchwork of which the Newtonian theory exists.”—Sir Richard Phillips.

“ As an engineer of many years' standing, I say that this absurd allowance (for curvature) is only permitted in school books. . . . I have projected many miles of railway, and many more of canals, and curvature has not even been thought of, much less allowed for.”—Mr. W. Winckler, C.E.

“ There are more frauds in modern science than anywhere else. . . . I have been thrown off my track often by them, and for months at a time.”—Thomas A. Edison, quoted by Dr. Bullinger, London, in *Things to Come*.

“ I agree with you in your contention respecting the earth ; for my motto has long been, Let God be true and every man a liar.”—Dr. W. E. Bullinger to “ Zetetes.”

And again, “ I am so thankful I have been able to read through your *Zetetic Astronomy*. It has been a revelation to me.”—Copied from *The Earth*.

“ Thanks for pamphlets and papers from time to time. I enjoyed reading your ‘ Serio-Scientific Satire.’

Any way, you are interesting and very suggestive.”—Joseph Wild, D.D., Toronto, to “ Zetetes.”

“ All known facts declare that we live on a flat earth. I am fully settled in this belief. The signs of the times are emphatic in their testimony that Jesus will soon return.”—Miles Grant, a well-known writer against Spiritism.

“ The magnificent Fable of scientific astronomy does not shake our faith in the testimony of the inspired writers respecting the world. The earth is an immense plane at rest where God placed it, and not a globe flying through space with lightning speed.”—Dr. Leask, on Josh. x., in *The Rainbow*.

“ We hope never to underestimate the valuable testimony of such mental athletes as ‘ Zetetes,’ ‘ Parallax,’ ‘ Rectangle,’ E. E. Middleton, H. H. Squire, **Dr. E. W. Bullinger**, Gen. Armstrong, Xavier Field, and men too numerous to name individually, all of whom have done their best to support the true Cosmogony.”—*The Earth*, Nos. 27 and 28.

The CREATOR himself says : “ Heaven (is) above . . . earth (land) beneath ; and water under the earth.”—The Second Commandment.

“ He that believeth not God hath made him a liar.”—St John.

E. W. Bullinger Had Personal Acquaintance With Flat-Earther D. W. Scott

TERRA FIRMA:

THE EARTH NOT A PLANET,

PROVED FROM

SCRIPTURE, REASON, AND FACT.

BY

DAVID WARDLAW SCOTT,

284

TERRA FIRMA.

CHAP. XIV., SEC. 4.

Another matter, which caused me much pain, arose from reading certain attempts, made by some Christian writers, to reconcile Scripture with Modern Astronomy. It seemed to me as if Christ were again being wounded in the house of His friends—*Zech. xiii. 6*, and Moore's lines in “ The Fire-worshippers ” rushed into my mind—

“ Oh ! colder than the wind that freezes
Founts that but now in sunshine play'd,
Is that congealing pang which seizes
The trusting hosom when betray'd.”

Instead of boldly upholding Scripture, which “ cannot be broken ”—*John. x. 35*, they coolly speak of this world as “ our globe,” as if it were one in reality, and plausibly seek to accommodate the phrase to the teachings of a false Astronomy—a terrible mistake, and utterly useless, for one might as soon essay to reconcile iron with clay, as Scripture with Modern Astronomy.

196

TERRA FIRMA.

CHAP. IX., SEC. 5.

The **Rev. Dr. Bullinger**, with whom I am happy to have some personal acquaintance, published a few years ago a most interesting work, called “ The Witness of the Stars,”* in which he gives an able exposition of the Twelve Signs of the Zodiac, and the thirty-six Constellations with which they are connected.

Tom McIver's book "Anti-Evolution: An Annotated Bibliography" (McFarland, 1988; reprint Johns Hopkins, 1992) chronicles over 1,852 books, pamphlets, and tracts and provides lengthy, nonpolemical annotations summarizing content and identifying doctrines or theories. Ethelbert W. Bullinger is mentioned on pages 32 and 33 along with the assertion that he served on the Committee of a flat-earth society.

Anti-Evolution

An Annotated Bibliography

by
Tom McIver

240 **Bullinger, Ethelbert W.** *Witness of the Stars*. 1967 [1893]. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel. Orig. 1893 (London: Lamp Press). *Bullinger*: Anglican clergyman; descendant of Swiss reformer J.H. Bullinger. The Gospel writ in the stars: the constellations depict Bible themes. This work has influenced other Bible-science interpretations of the stars: **Rand, H. Morris**. Mankind was 2,500 years without written revelation from God—but we had His revelation in the stars. Messages of constellations include The Coming Redeemer, The Redeemed, and Second Coming themes. Charts, star maps. **Bullinger later served on the Committee of the Universal Zetetic (Flat Earth) Society.**

(pp. 32-33)

Reference page 11 of the following facsimile to see a quote from Bullinger's journal "Things to Come" followed by a few thoughts from a fellow flat-earther:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/n9xwabh5r8b4eyy/Earth%2C%20The%20%28Vol%20III%2C%20Nos.%2043-44%29.pdf?dl=0>

“HOW any reasoning man who believes the elementary theories of evolution, of ASTRONOMY, and geology, can accept the doctrine of the atonement is a marvel.”—**Dr. E. W. BULLINGER, D.D.** From *Things to Come*, Feb., 1904.

“On receiving *The Earth*, a few days ago, I felt what is so well expressed by one of your contributors, viz. : that ‘I experienced one of the greatest joys of my life’ when I commenced reading several of the articles, especially yours on my dear teacher and Instructor, **Dr. Bullinger**. He is a great favourite of mine, as a writer, and has been for many years; for I fell in love with his *Things to Come* soon after its commencement. I have read it ever since, and he has been my spiritual guide ever since. • The article expresses my views all through, and it is always pleasing to find our views confirmed, especially by those we know and esteem.

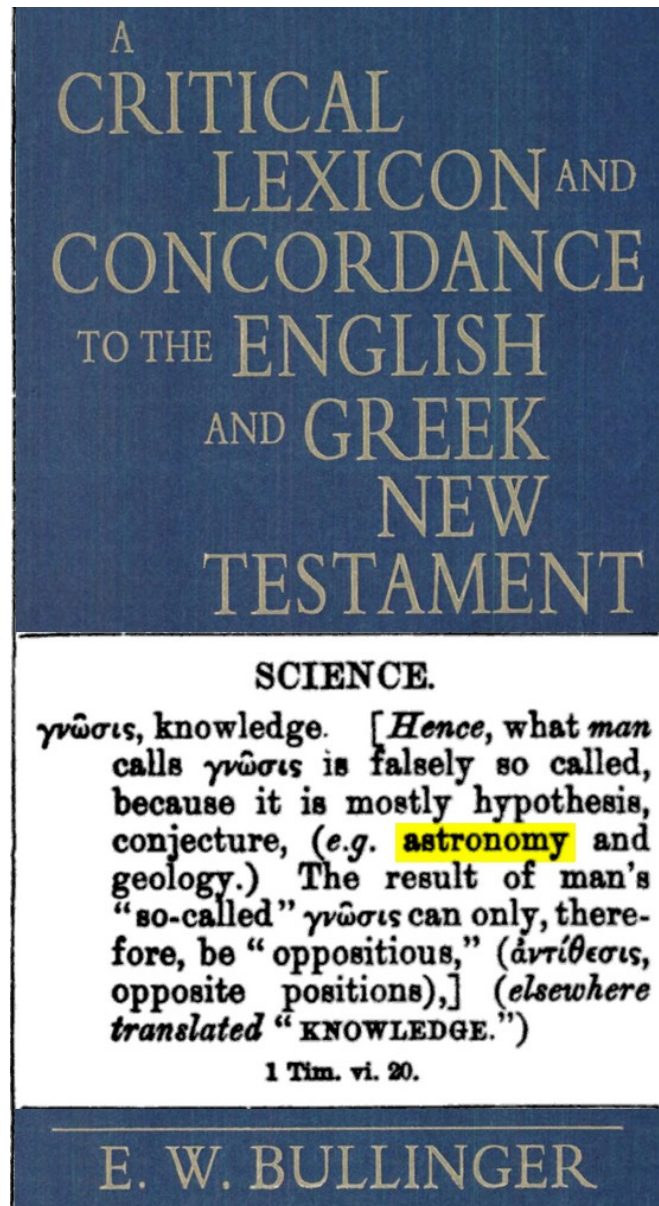
“I think the globites are on their last legs. I am as sure as that we are alive at this moment, that they have no other reason to give of the earth being a globe, than this : that finding what they call the *North* pole has suggested to them the *South* pole; and they have been searching for it ever since. But every attempt has been a failure; which they must have realized themselves, otherwise they would have made as many attempts to discover it as they have the North Pole. Even in the last expedition they suggest that their object was not so much to find the pole, as to make other observations.

“Whoever reads Captain Cook’s account of the South Seas, will be convinced (if of an unprejudiced mind) that none but idiots would attempt to go further than he did in search of a pole, or anything else; as there could be nothing but sudden and irretrievable loss to those acting contrary to his advice and action. And Captain Cook was no coward.

“It is worse than madness to say that the sun is a million times larger than the earth. Both the sun and moon are small bodies (as you say) in comparison with the earth—and no doubt the stars also. Seeing them principally through a vacuum we can form no definite idea of their size, or elements. We notice the great difference between the appearance of the sun when rising and setting; at the latter stage its size is increased more than fourfold, because seen through the medium of denser air.

“How difficult it is to make people understand the distance at which our sight fails to perceive any object on land. I have noticed persons walking in the meadows near my residence, and found that the height of them, from head to foot, as I marked on the window pane through which I looked, was only the eighth of an inch, i.e. : at that distance the eighth of an inch really represented their height. Now any school boy could readily tell at what distance they would be lost to sight; after which a telescope would restore them, until, in turn, its power would be lost. The rule of the globist is, that at a distance equal to 2,000 times the *height* of any object it would be lost to the unassisted eye; and he will not understand why the sun does not illuminate the whole earth simultaneously. Were the sun a million times larger than the earth its light would be shown all over the world, and there would be no darkness; but the sun is a small body ever revolving above and around the earth, so as to give alternate day and night, as ordained by an all-wise Creator.”—From AN OCCASIONAL SCRIBBLER.

The preceding quote from “Things to Come” mirrors the following excerpt from Bullinger's lexicon/concordance:



I'll close this investigation with a quote from one of Bullinger's best known works:

"Instead of making the Bible agree with science, science must agree with the Bible. If it does not, it is only because it is 'science falsely so-called,' and not real science. Scientia is the Latin word for knowledge. Whereas very much of what goes by the name of 'science' to-day is not science at all. It is only hypothesis! Read man's books on this so-called science, and you will get tired of the never-ending repetition of such words as 'hypothesis,' 'conjecture,' 'supposition,' etc., etc. This is the reason that such theories, which are falsely dignified by the name of science, are constantly changing. We talk of the 'Science of Geology,' or of 'Medical Science'; but read books on geology or medicine, for example, written fifty years ago, and you will find that they are now quite 'out of date.' But truth cannot change. Truth will never be 'out of date.' What we know can never alter! This of itself proves that the word science is wrongly used when it is applied only to hypotheses, which are merely invented to explain certain phenomena. It is not for such theories that we are going to give up facts. It is not for conjectures that we are going to abandon truth." —E. W. Bullinger (Number in Scripture, p. 103)