

would be seen in the same locality that they were seen. Best of all, and what will gratify the scientific world at large, Professor Rogers has made an important discovery among the planets, the nature of which has not yet been made public, but will be as soon as the proper papers on the matter have been prepared. We have the word of one of the gentlemen composing the party that the Home Observatory will be richly repaid by this expedition in the discoveries made and theories confirmed.

#### NO INTER-MERCURIAL PLANETS

Professor Newcomb, whose observatory was situated in the courthouse square, and whose observations were solely for the discovery of inter-mercurial planets, or planets between Mercury and the sun, searched that region thoroughly, and found nothing that would indicate the existence of planets of that class. The question of their existence has been a mooted one among astronomers, and as Mercury is very seldom visible, even with the aid of powerful telescopes, research has been very limited, and as this total obscuration of the sun opened the whole field for observation, Professor Newcomb, assisted by Professor Armstrong, availed himself of the opportunity.

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#### THE GOLDFINCH\*

Exultant is their motion and their song;  
 They rise on wing and with a wavy flight  
 Again float down into their paradise  
 On thistle blooms or mullein stalks to light;  
 There, clinging to the swaying, slender stems  
 And swinging airily among the weeds,  
 They peck upon the stately mullein stalks  
 And lunch upon the thistle's fluffy seeds.

As bright and yellow, as they soar aloft,  
 As glint of sunshine or of golden rod,  
 The echoes of the mingled rhapsody  
 Come floating downward from the realms of God;  
 Wild, sweet and incoherent melody—  
 Of brown and gold—a perfect harmony.

—Inez Sheldon Tyler  
 Editor of BLUE MOON  
 3945 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.  
 Washington 8, D. C.

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\*The Eastern Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis tristis* (Linnaeus), often referred to as a wild canary, was made the official State bird of Iowa by the General Assembly, March 22, 1933.

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