

凡尔纳科幻探险系列

英汉  
对照  
全译本

# Five Weeks in a Balloon



[法] Jules Verne 儒勒·凡尔纳/著

## 气球上的五星期

远方出版社

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## 《英汉对照凡尔纳科幻探险小说系列》

### 《气球上的五星期》

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## 导 读

非洲是什么？是荒芜之所还是膏腴之地？是暴力蛮夷还是文明开化？是遥不可知还是唾手可得？为了解开这个高深莫测的谜底，为了揭开它神秘的面纱，探险家弗格森博士自哥伦布首次发现新大陆之后开始了他的非洲探索，与众不同的是乘坐热气球是本书别出心裁的构思。

《气球上的五星期》是儒勒·凡尔纳太空历险作品的首部，为凡尔纳今后的科幻创作奠定了坚实的基础。本书在世界上广为传播，有多种语言译本。

作者展开了神奇瑰丽的想象，却又以一定的科学知识作依据。本书详尽描述了热气球的构造与原理，周围空气所产生的浮力与氢气球所携带的重量，两者之差构成了气球的升力。为了防止高空中大气密度减小导致氢气膨胀胀破气球，作者又设计了一种以阀门相连通的双层椭圆状气球，通过释放外层气球中的氢气达到变化浮力的作用，从而得以控制气球的任意升降。这种思路现在看来似乎平常之极，甚至于十分粗糙，操作上可行性也不是太强（比如文中气球的转向就完全听命于风力），但在当时却不啻为一个天才的设想，有些类似今天的飞机，表达了人类遨游天空的美好愿望。可不可以这样说，今天人类所取得的种种成就，比如航天飞机、人造卫星、太空登月，其灵感也许不少就缘于凡尔纳甚至更多作者所创作的科幻小说中的雏形呢？

本书讲述了乘气球横越非洲所遭遇的种种困境。有来自于大漠的干渴与疾病，也有来自于土人部落的凌辱与袭击，更有来自于大自然的肆虐侵袭，种种天灾人祸纷至沓来，令小说一波三折，险象环生，高潮迭起，让读者不由自主地与书中人物同呼吸共命运。小说还记载了途中的奇闻轶事如冒充月亮女神显于人间等等，更令小说张弛有度，妙趣横生。

也许人类的天性造就了探险的魅力，向困难挑战，向危

险发难,向畏惧说无缘,向懦弱说再见,或者这正是本书的价值所在。斗智斗勇中,体力固然重要,然而团结、协作、信心、毅力、勇气和智慧的作用更甚一筹。本书讲述的是一个团队作战的故事。以智慧过人的弗格森博士为首,再加上枪术精湛的猎人肯尼迪和厨艺高超的仆人乔,便形成了一支永往直前,所向披靡的团队。尽管屡遭危险,但终因团队的协作而最终得以化险为夷。作者生动刻画了人物的性格,三个人形象饱满鲜明,栩栩如生。弗格森博士胆大心细,考虑周密,做事老练,聪明过人,热诚正直,是小说中的灵魂人物。猎人则顾虑重重,谨小慎微,然而他那对朋友的信任与支持,甘冒九死一生的危险应朋友之邀前去探险,这本身就是对友谊最好的诠释。而仆人乔,虽然是一个不起眼的小人物,却给文章添色不少,有些类似《鲁宾逊漂流记》中的星期五,但又不同于星期五,他个性独立,温和乐观,善解人意。但不变的是他的忠心耿耿与灵俐敏捷。正是勇敢的乔,几次在千钧一发的时刻挽救了整个团队。但是人无完人,乔也有他致命的缺陷,那就是小农思想骨头中的贪欲。当你读到乔为不得不丢弃金矿石而惋惜懊恼不止时,你不禁会为作者刻画人物的入木三分而叫绝。

本书也表达了作者这样一个隐忧:亚洲、欧洲、美洲在历经人类的过度开发、疯狂掠夺而导致环境恶化、土地贫瘠、资源匮乏、灾害肆虐时,当取之不尽、用之不竭只能成为人类的空想与美好愿望时,非洲,是否能摆脱类似的浩劫与宿命呢?作者借书中人物之口阐述了这样一种观点:当原始森林倒在工业的巨斧之下,也就预示着它那将不断被透支了的明天。非洲也许会因为被发现而变得更加文明,但是世界的末日也许就是某一个烧到了 30 亿气压的大锅炉把我们这个星球炸飞的那一天。

## 写给读者的话

读小说可以划分为三个阶段。第一个阶段是以了解故事情节为主,读者关注的是书中形形色色的人物以及他们不同的遭遇和命运。第二个阶段的读者注重透过故事本身去体味它反映的社会现实和作者的情感,进而去品味人生的涵义。第三个阶段的读者则从纯文学的角度把握小说的构思、布局和创作技巧。

由于目的不同,阅读的方式也不同。所以,这三个阶段并没有层次高低的分别。英文小说的读者大多是以学习英语为目的,限于对语言的理解程度,不便也不可能按照后两个阶段的要求阅读。因此,读者们大可不必过高地要求自己,看懂大概内容即可。这样,阅读的责任便减轻了,学习的过程也回复了读书原本的目的——娱乐。

为此,我们特别提醒读者,在阅读时,切莫拘泥于生词。本丛书中任何一部英文小说的单词量均在 12,000 字左右,几乎包括了全部英语常用词汇。遇到生词是很正常的,一见生词就查字典的作法并不可取。过分地关注单词带来的只有扫兴和挫败感。为了保持阅读的兴趣和连续性,建议读者尝试着去抓句子的中心意思,对与中心意思联系不大的单词不必理会。只有与中心意思密切相关的生词才有查字典的必要。无论一页书上有多少生词,翻字典的次数也别超过三次,这是保持阅读连贯性的关键。假设每天看五页书,一页书上记三个单词,一天便掌握十五个单词,正是人脑每日能够熟记的单词量。照此速度,读者在两个半月内即能将本书轻松看完。如果需要将上述数字与英文水平挂钩的话,大学英语四级水平的读者在读完本书后,应能通过大学英语六级考试。而不足四级水平者,则可达到四级水平。

此外,读者应充分利用中文译文。本书的译文对照原文段落在同一页上配附,帮助读者方便和灵活地阅读,碰见生词和海涩的句子时,读者即可与译文对照。对于个别难懂的段落,也不需费神推敲,可直接阅读译文。由于有了对照译文,读者免去了动辄查字典之苦,也能初探英语翻译之端倪。这正是我们精心设计的初衷。

当然,读者在这部小说中收获的不仅仅是英语,故事本身也给了

我们许多启迪。

我们相信，按照以上的建议阅读本书，读者会受益匪浅。

# 目 录

Chapter 1	第 一 章 .....	1
Chapter 2	第 二 章 .....	10
Chapter 3	第 三 章 .....	14
Chapter 4	第 四 章 .....	24
Chapter 5	第 五 章 .....	31
Chapter 6	第 六 章 .....	38
Chapter 7	第 七 章 .....	45
Chapter 8	第 八 章 .....	51
Chapter 9	第 九 章 .....	60
Chapter 10	第 十 章 .....	67
Chapter 11	第 十 一 章 .....	73
Chapter 12	第 十 二 章 .....	82
Chapter 13	第 十 三 章 .....	93
Chapter 14	第 十 四 章 .....	102
Chapter 15	第 十 五 章 .....	113
Chapter 16	第 十 六 章 .....	127
Chapter 17	第 十 七 章 .....	139
Chapter 18	第 十 八 章 .....	151
Chapter 19	第 十 九 章 .....	164
Chapter 20	第 二 十 章 .....	172
Chapter 21	第 二 十 一 章 .....	181
Chapter 22	第 二 十 二 章 .....	192
Chapter 23	第 二 十 三 章 .....	203
Chapter 24	第 二 十 四 章 .....	214
Chapter 25	第 二 十 五 章 .....	224
Chapter 26	第 二 十 六 章 .....	233
Chapter 27	第 二 十 七 章 .....	242
Chapter 28	第 二 十 八 章 .....	251



Chapter 29	第二十九章 .....	259
Chapter 30	第三十章 .....	268
Chapter 31	第三十一章 .....	279
Chapter 32	第三十二章 .....	285
Chapter 33	第三十三章 .....	294
Chapter 34	第三十四章 .....	303
Chapter 35	第三十五章 .....	310
Chapter 36	第三十六章 .....	323
Chapter 37	第三十七章 .....	331
Chapter 38	第三十八章 .....	339
Chapter 39	第三十九章 .....	350
Chapter 40	第四十章 .....	357
Chapter 41	第四十一章 .....	363
Chapter 42	第四十二章 .....	373
Chapter 43	第四十三章 .....	380
Chapter 44	第四十四章 .....	392

## Chapter 1

The End of a much-applauded Speech. - The Presentation of Dr. Samuel Ferguson. - Excelsior. - Full-length Portrait of the Doctor. - A Fatalist convinced. - A Dinner at the Travellers' Club. - Several Toasts for the Occasion.

There was a large audience assembled on the 14th of January, 1862, at the session of the Royal Geographical Society, No. 3 Waterloo Place, London. The president, Sir Francis M——, made an important communication to his colleagues, in an address that was frequently interrupted by applause. This rare specimen of eloquence terminated with the following sonorous phrases bubbling over with patriotism:

"England has always marched at the head of nations" (for, the reader will observe, the nations always march at the head of each other), "by the intrepidity of her explorers in the line of geographical discovery." (General assent). "Dr. Samuel Ferguson, one of her most glorious sons, will not reflect discredit on his origin." ("No, indeed!" from all parts of the hall.) "This attempt, should it succeed" ("It will succeed!"), "will complete and link together the notions, as yet disjointed, which the world entertains of African cartology" (vehement applause); "and, should it fail, it will, at least, remain on record as one of the most daring conceptions of human genius!" (Tremendous cheering.)

## 第一章

演讲在热烈的掌声中结束——介绍塞缪尔·弗格森博士——精益求精——博士的风貌——宿命论者——“旅行者俱乐部”的晚宴——不失时机的频频祝酒

1862年1月14日,伦敦皇家地理学会正在滑铁卢广场召开一场盛大的会议。学会主席弗朗西斯·M××爵士向他的同行们作了一场重要的学术报告。他的话常常被热情的掌声打断。爵士最后用几句慷慨激昂的话结束了这次激动人心的演讲。他的话中洋溢着饱满的爱国激情:

“英国一直领先于世界各国(因为大家已注意到,国家的发展总是有个先后的),这完全是英国旅行家在地理探险中的大无畏精神所至(全场一片赞同)。塞缪尔·弗格森博士,就是这些英国的优秀儿女中的一位。他是不会有负重托的(四处响起附和声:不会的!不会的!)。这次尝试假如成功(会成功的!),就能把我们在非洲地图学方面零散的基本知识补充完整,使之成为一体(一阵猛烈的掌声),即使失败了,至少也将作为人类最大胆的设想之一而永存(全场狂热欢呼)!”

“Huzza! huzza!” shouted the immense audience, completely electrified by these inspiring words.

“Huzza for the intrepid Ferguson!” cried one of the most excitable of the enthusiastic crowd.

The wildest cheering resounded on all sides; the name of Ferguson was in every mouth, and we may safely believe that it lost nothing in passing through English throats. Indeed, the hall fairly shook with it.

And there were present, also, those fearless travellers and explorers whose energetic temperaments had borne them through every quarter of the globe, many of them grown old and worn out in the service of science. All had, in some degree, physically or morally, undergone the sorest trials. They had escaped shipwreck; conflagration; Indian tomahawks and war-clubs; the fagot and the stake; nay, even the cannibal maws of the South Sea Islanders. But still their hearts beat high during Sir Francis M——’s address, which certainly was the finest oratorical success that the Royal Geographical Society of London had yet achieved.

But, in England, enthusiasm does not stop short with mere words. It strikes off money faster than the dies of the Royal Mint itself. So a subscription to encourage Dr. Ferguson was voted there and then, and it at once attained the handsome amount of two thousand five

“好哇! 好哇!”这番振奋人心的话使得群情激昂,高声欢呼起来。

“无畏的弗格森万岁!”一位极度动情的听众不由地喊叫道。

狂热的欢呼声四起,每个人嘴里都在喊着弗格森这个名字。我们完全可以相信,经过英国人嗓门的呼喊,弗格森这个名字将更加雷灌耳,而实际上,这会使整个大厅也为这个名字而抖动起来。

这些与会者们其实也是些英勇无畏的旅行家或探险家,好动的天性使得他们强烈地渴望着走遍世界的每一块土地。但是他们中的许多人已经老了、累了,不能再为科学事业做出贡献了。所有的人在肉体上、精神上或多或少地经历过残酷的考验:他们都经历过船舶失事、火灾、印地安人的战斧、野人的棍棒、酷刑、波利尼西亚人的捕食等种种危难,并安然脱身。不过,他们的心依然因弗朗西斯·M××爵士的这番讲演而激动不已。这场讲演确实是伦敦皇家地理学会有史以来最为精彩绝伦的。

但是在英国,热情并不是停留在口头上的。用它铸造钱币比“皇家造币厂”的铸币机来得还要快。因此会议立即表决通过了给弗格森博士一笔促进活动金,且数目高达 2500 英镑

hundred pounds. The sum was made commensurate with the importance of the enterprise.

A member of the Society then inquired of the president whether Dr. Ferguson was not to be officially introduced.

"The doctor is at the disposition of the meeting," replied Sir Francis.

"Let him come in, then! Bring him in!" shouted the audience. "We'd like to see a man of such extraordinary daring, face to face!"

"Perhaps this incredible proposition of his is only intended to mystify us," growled an apoplectic old admiral.

"Suppose that there should turn out to be no such person as Dr. Ferguson?" exclaimed another voice, with a malicious twang.

"Why, then, we'd have to invent one!" replied a facetious member of this grave Society.

"Ask Dr. Ferguson to come in," was the quiet remark of Sir Francis M——.

And come in the doctor did, and stood there, quite unmoved by the thunders of applause that greeted his appearance.

He was a man of about forty years of age, of medium height and physique. His sanguine temperament was disclosed in the deep color of his cheeks. His countenance was coldly expressive, with regular features, and a large nose — one of those noses that resemble the prow of a ship, and stamp the faces of men predestined to accomplish great discoveries. His eyes, which were gentle and intelligent, rather than bold, lent a peculiar charm to his physiognomy. His

(即 62500 法郎)。这么一大笔款子恰恰说明这项事业有多么重要。

接着,一位学会成员询问主席能否把弗格森博士正式介绍给大家。

"博士随时听候大家的吩咐。"弗朗西斯爵士答道。

"让他进来!请他进来!"人们高呼,"我们要亲眼见见这位杰出、勇敢的人!"

"这个探险主张令人难以置信,也许只是糊弄一下我们罢了!"一位身体中风的老船长说。

"可能,这个弗格森博士根本就不存在!"一个人幸灾乐祸地叫道。

"那还不如把他杜撰出来呢!"一位爱开玩笑的会员答道。

"有请弗格森博士。"弗朗西斯·M××爵士平静地说。

于是,弗格森博士从容不迫的在雷鸣般地掌声中步入大厅,不露声色。

他是位四十岁左右的男子,中等身材,脸庞过于红润。他气定神闲相貌端正,只不过鼻子略大。威严而气度非凡的鼻子就像天生为探险而生的一样。他慈祥的眼睛里闪烁着勇敢而智慧的光芒,这些都使他的容貌产生一种强大的魔力吸引着别人的注意。他的双臂很长,步履稳健,具有步行家的特

arms were long, and his feet were planted with that solidity which indicates a great pedestrian.

A calm gravity seemed to surround the doctor's entire person, and no one would dream that he could become the agent of any mystification, however harmless.

Hence, the applause that greeted him at the outset continued until he, with a friendly gesture, claimed silence on his own behalf. He stepped toward the seat that had been prepared for him on his presentation, and then, standing erect and motionless, he, with a determined glance, pointed his right forefinger upward, and pronounced aloud the single word -

"Excelsior!"

Never had one of Bright's or Cobden's sudden onslaughts, never had one of Palmerston's abrupt demands for funds to plate the rocks of the English coast with iron, made such a sensation. Sir Francis M——'s address was completely overshadowed. The doctor had shown himself moderate, sublime, and self-contained, in one; he had uttered the word of the situation -

"Excelsior!"

The gouty old admiral who had been finding fault, was completely won over by the singular man before him, and immediately moved the insertion of Dr. Ferguson's speech in "The Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London."

Who, then, was this person, and what was the enterprise that he proposed?

质。

博士的整个外貌透着安然与严肃的气质。使人无法相信他会是那种干最无知的欺骗勾当的人。

正因为如此,直到弗格森博士用友好的手势示意大家安静时,喝采声和掌声才渐渐平息下来。他走向讲台,准备做自我介绍,站在那儿一动不动,目光炯炯地凝视会场。忽然只见他举起右手,食指指向空中,张开口,只说了一个字:

"Excelsior!"

真是绝了!无论布赖特和科布登国会上的意外质询,还是帕斯顿公爵为加固英国峭壁海防工事而申请特别资金的演讲,都从未获得过如此的欢迎。欢迎的热烈程度远胜过弗朗西斯·M××爵士的演讲,博士表现得谦虚、谨慎又不失高尚。他刚才讲了一个很合时宜的字:

"Excelsior!"

老船长被博士折服了,他转而坚决地站到支持这位外来人的一边。他请求把弗格森的演说一字不落地刊登在"the Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London"(《伦敦皇家地理学会会报》)上。

那么这位博士到底是什么人呢?他打算从事的事业又是

Ferguson's father, a brave and worthy captain in the English Navy, had associated his son with him, from the young man's earliest years, in the perils and adventures of his profession. The fine little fellow, who seemed to have never known the meaning of fear, early revealed a keen and active mind, an investigating intelligence, and a remarkable turn for scientific study; moreover, he disclosed uncommon address in extricating himself from difficulty; he was never perplexed, not even in handling his fork for the first time - an exercise in which children generally have so little success.

His fancy kindled early at the recitals he read of daring enterprise and maritime adventure, and he followed with enthusiasm the discoveries that signalized the first part of the nineteenth century. He mused over the glory of the Mungo Parks, the Bruces, the Caillies, the Levailants, and to some extent, I verily believe, of Selkirk (Robinson Crusoe), whom he considered in no wise inferior to the rest. How many a well-employed hour he passed with that hero on his isle of Juan Fernandez! Often he criticised the ideas of the shipwrecked sailor, and sometimes discussed his plans and projects. He would have done differently, in such and such a case, or quite as well at least - of that he felt assured. But of one thing he was satisfied, that he never should have left that pleasant island, where he was as happy as a king without subjects - no, not if the inducement held out had

什么呢?

弗格森的父亲是英国海运业一位勇敢而正直的船长。在弗格森很小的时候,父亲就让弗格森跟他一同体验他那种职业生涯中特有的危险的滋味和冒险的乐趣。弗格森从小似乎就不知道什么是害怕,很快地,他就显示出头脑灵活,善于思考,无限钟情于科学事业的优点。此外,他还表现出了摆脱困境的非凡才智。他似乎从未被难倒过,甚至连初次用叉子吃饭这样的事都显得非常老练。大家都知道,一般说来,对于小孩子们来说一开始就会用叉子是极其少见的。

对冒险和航海探险之类书籍的涉猎燃起了他对此的狂热。他痴迷地关注着十九世纪初的那些重要发现。他梦想获得蒙戈·帕克、布鲁斯、卡耶、勒瓦杨所享有的那样的荣誉。哪怕获得像塞尔扣克那种鲁滨逊式的哪怕一点点荣誉,他也会觉得满足。他十分赞成这位已被遗忘的水手的看法,时而也会对这位水手的计划和设计提出异议。年青的弗格森认为,如果换作他,他会采取其他的做法,或许更好,至少不会很差!然而,显而易见的是,如果换了他,他是决不会离开那个令人非常快乐的小岛的。在那儿,他会快活得像一个无冕之王。即使叫他当海军部大臣,

been promotion to the first lordship in the admiralty!

It may readily be conjectured whether these tendencies were developed during a youth of adventure, spent in every nook and corner of the Globe. Moreover, his father, who was a man of thorough instruction, omitted no opportunity to consolidate this keen intelligence by serious studies in hydrography, physics, and mechanics, along with a slight tincture of botany, medicine, and astronomy.

Upon the death of the estimable captain, Samuel Ferguson, then twenty-two years of age, had already made his voyage around the world. He had enlisted in the Bengalese Corps of Engineers, and distinguished himself in several affairs; but this soldier's life had not exactly suited him; caring but little for command, he had not been fond of obeying. He, therefore, sent in his resignation, and half botanizing, half playing the hunter, he made his way toward the north of the Indian Peninsula, and crossed it from Calcutta to Surat - a mere amateur trip for him.

From Surat we see him going over to Australia, and in 1845 participating in Captain Sturt's expedition, which had been sent out to explore the new Caspian Sea, supposed to exist in the centre of New Holland.

Samuel Ferguson returned to England about 1850, and, more than ever possessed by the demon of discovery, he spent the intervening time, until 1853, in accompanying Captain Mc-

也决不能使他离开!

可以想象,弗格森的年青时代在世界各地进行冒险活动期间,他的这些倾向得到了怎样的发展。弗格森的父亲是位见多识广的人,自然不会忽略发展孩子敏捷的智力。他让儿子认真学习了水文学、物理学和力学,此外,还让他学了一点儿植物学、医学和天文学方面的知识。

可敬的船长去世时,塞缪尔·弗格森才 22 岁,但是他已经周游了世界。他曾加入过孟加拉工程兵部队,并且多次在战斗中立功。然而,他对这种军人生活并不满意。他不愿意指挥别人,也不喜欢被别人指挥。于是他提出了退役的要求。而后,他边打猎,边采集植物,重新启程去印度半岛北方旅行。从加尔各答到苏拉特,他穿越了整个半岛。对他来说,这不过是旅行爱好者的一次平常散步而已。

在苏拉特,他动身去了澳大利亚。1845 年,他在那里参加了斯特尔特船长的远征探险队,这支探险队受委托去寻找新荷兰中部的一个内陆海,人们猜想它是存在的。

塞缪尔·弗格森于 1850 年前后返回英国,而且比以往任何时候都更执迷于旅行探险。他去远征队陪同麦克·鲁尔船

Clure on the expedition that went around the American Continent from Behring's Straits to Cape Farewell.

Notwithstanding fatigues of every description, and in all climates, Ferguson's constitution continued marvellously sound. He felt at ease in the midst of the most complete privations; in fine, he was the very type of the thoroughly accomplished explorer whose stomach expands or contracts at will; whose limbs grow longer or shorter according to the resting-place that each stage of a journey may bring; who can fall asleep at any hour of the day or awake at any hour of the night.

Nothing, then, was less surprising, after that, than to find our traveller, in the period from 1855 to 1857, visiting the whole region west of the Thibet, in company with the brothers Schlagintweit, and bringing back some curious ethnographic observations from that expedition.

During these different journeys, Ferguson had been the most active and interesting correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, the penny newspaper whose circulation amounts to 140,000 copies, and yet scarcely suffices for its many legions of readers. Thus, the doctor had become well known to the public, although he could not claim membership in either of the Royal Geographical Societies of London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, or St. Petersburg, or yet with the Travellers' Club, or even the Royal Polytechnic Institute, where his friend the statistician Cockburn ruled in state.

长一起从白令海峡环绕美洲大陆到达费尔韦角。这次远征直到1853年才告结束。

不管有多么劳顿困苦,无论气候如何恶劣,弗格森的身体居然还能不可思议地抵挡得住。甚至在那种一无所有的最恶劣环境中,他也依然能生活得悠然自得。他就是这样一个人,地道的旅行家,适应能力十分强;他的胃可以任意收缩、扩张;他的腿可以按临时床铺的长短蜷屈伸展;白天可以随时入睡,晚间可以随时醒来。

因此,当这位永不知疲倦的旅行家,在施拉克特魏特兄弟的陪同下,从1855到1857年访问了西藏的整个西部地区,并且带回一些珍稀的人种学方面的观察报告的时候,也就令人们感到不足为怪了。

在这几次非凡的旅游期间,弗格森成了《每日电信报》最活跃、最引人注目的通信员。虽然这家报纸很便宜,一便士就能买一份,虽然该报的日发行量高达14万份,依然无法满足数万读者的迫切需要。所以,弗格森博士即使不是任何学者团体的成员,既不是伦敦、巴黎、柏林、维也纳或圣·彼得堡皇家地理学会成员,也不是旅行者俱乐部的成员,更不是皇家工艺学会成员(他的朋友统计学家科克伯恩是该会头面人物),他的名字仍然家喻户晓。



The latter savant had, one day, gone so far as to propose to him the following problem: Given the number of miles travelled by the doctor in making the circuit of the Globe, how many more had his head described than his feet, by reason of the different lengths of the radii? - or, the number of miles traversed by the doctor's head and feet respectively being given, required the exact height of that gentleman?

This was done with the idea of complimenting him, but the doctor had held himself aloof from all the learned bodies - belonging, as he did, to the church militant and not to the church polemical. He found his time better employed in seeking than in discussing, in discovering rather than discoursing.

There is a story told of an Englishman who came one day to Geneva, intending to visit the lake. He was placed in one of those odd vehicles in which the passengers sit side by side, as they do in an omnibus. Well, it so happened that the Englishman got a seat that left him with his back turned toward the lake. The vehicle completed its circular trip without his thinking to turn around once, and he went back to London delighted with the Lake of Geneva.

Doctor Ferguson, however, had turned around to look about him on his journeyings, and turned to such good purpose that he had seen a great deal. In doing so, he had simply obeyed the laws of his nature, and we have good reason to believe that he was, to some extent, a fatalist, but of an orthodox school of

晓。

有一天,他的这位学者朋友拿他寻开心,要他解答这么一个问题:已知博士环绕地球走过的里数,由于半径不同,问他的头比脚多行多少里路?或者说已知博士的脚和头经过的里数,精确算出他的身高,误差不超过1法寸(1法寸约合2.25毫米)。

弗格森对那些学者团体总是敬而远之。因为他是埋头实干、不愿多言的人,他认为把时间用于探索 and 发现比争来论去、高谈阔论有价值的多。

有这么一个故事,说的是有一天,一位英国人特意来日内瓦观赏日内瓦湖。他上了一辆老式马车,这种车像公共马车一样,座位在车内的两侧。这位英国人恰恰被安排坐在背对湖的一侧。车稳稳地绕湖一圈,这期间这位英国人竟然没想到回过回头去看一眼,最后,竟然还心满意足地离开日内瓦湖回伦敦了。

然而,弗格森博士在旅行期间却回过头,而且还不止一次呢。正因为如此,他才看到了许多东西。再说,这也正是他的天性所至。这些使我们有充分理由相信,在某种程度上他有点宿命论思想。其实他就