

Transcription, January 2015:

*Daily Mail* (London) No. 2355 (4 Nov. 1903): 4e (Harry G. Wells).

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‘Other Worlds. Is Earth the Only Peopled Planet? By Mr. H. G. Wells.’

Mr. Wells, the master-spirit of Anticipation, has no belief at all in the new theory. He says:

The question Dr. Wallace raises is altogether too fantastic for me. I know of no facts upon which a man can base either belief or denial in the matter.

Dr. Wallace neither proves nor disproves anything, and for my own part I am quite content to go on neither holding nor contradicting anything of the sort. It seems to me that it would be equally interesting and profitable to debate whether the general outline of the material universe is, or is not, exactly that of a common shanked metal button or of a saucepan-lid, and whether one could find anything precisely like a watch-key in extra-terrestrial space.

They did this sort of thing very much better in the middle ages, when they would bring all the resources of science to determine how many angels can stand upon the point of a needle.

H.G. Wells.

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*The Alfred Russel Wallace Page*, Charles H. Smith, 2015.