

This question is again agitating scientists, and of late interesting discoveries have been made at the Lick observatory in California. Prof. HOLDEN the director of the observatory has secured through the big telescope better photographs of the moon than have been taken anywhere else, and the work of photographing goes on every hour when the satellite is visible. By studying these photographs with a magnifying glass and comparing them, any changes taking place on the surface of the moon may be discovered. The astronomers on Mount Hamilton have discovered something that nobody else ever saw, but they have not determined whether these are new features or they are too small to have been seen through a less powerful telescope. For example, upon the top of one of the mountains of the moon the photograph shows a luminous white spot that looks like snow. If that is snow, and if it was not there before, the presence of an atmosphere is indicated. It has been believed that the moon has no atmosphere and therefore is uninhabitable, but if it should be demonstrated that snow falls upon the surface of the satellite the accepted theory would be upset and astronomers would begin to study the moon with new and greater interest.

Objects upon the moon are detected by their shadows, and a projection or eminence 50 feet high casts a shadow large enough to be seen through the Lick telescope. If Prof. HOLDEN, in studying his series of photographs, should discover some day a new shadow where none had been cast before when the moon was at the same position and under the same light he would know that something had been erected upon the surface, either a part of the crust upheaved by some internal movement or a building put up by living creatures. The shape of the shadows might tell the name of the projection. If the moon were inhabited it is very likely the works of man would have been seen before now; the growing and harvesting of crops would produce changes of appearance easily distinguished by the aid of such a glass as the Lick tele-

scope. The moon appears to be a dead, desolate waste of played out volcanos and cooled-off lava beds, without atmosphere, and like Arizona, rather short of water and good society.

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