H.P. ARMSTRONG
"KIN ROSS"
HORAM (Sussex)

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We used to look out for the "green flash", as we called it, on most fine evenings, but it did not always appear, even when the horizon appeared to be perfectly clear and free from haze, so that we concluded that certain atmospheric conditions were necessary for the manifestation to take place. When it did appear, inthe form of a vivid instantaneous green flash, at the moment the last particle of the sun's disc sank below the horizon, we considered that it had been well worth waiting for.

I was never able to obtain a satisfactory explanation of the phenomenon, although I questtioned a number of my friends about it,none of them, however, with any real scientific knowledge. The generally held theory was, that as red and green are complementary colours, it was only natural after gazing intently at the red setting sun for a time, that after it's disappearance one should see green. That, of course, is elementary but does not account for the extreme brilliance and instantaneousness of the flash, as M. Michel also calls it. I see he distinguishes between a "rayon vert ordinaire" and "un éclat beucoup plus intense, beaucoup moins fréquent...." We never saw the former one (the rayon "ordinaire"), but only the latter, and the terms he applies to it, intensity and lesser frequency, exactly describe my own experience. I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity of studying his explanation, based onthe lines of the spectrum, and only wish that I had had it some 20 years ago, when, with its assistance, I could have observed the phenomenon with a better understanding of its nature.

I wonder if M. Michel ever goes to London and, when there visits the Science Museum in South Kensington. A few months ago, when I happened to Be there, they had on exhibition a collection of clocks, from the earliest specimens to the present day, which would certainly have interested him. When I was last there about three weeks ago, they had a section devoted to Sir William Ramsay's work and experiments in separating the rare gases, Helium, Krypton, Argon, etc. from the atmosphere, showing the actual apparatus used by him and the present-day process of obtaining them commercially.