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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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GREEN FLASH NOT RARE

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The momentary spark of brilliant green into which the upper edge of the sun's disk is sometimes transformed when just visible above a sharply defined horizon, at sunrise or sunset, is generally regarded as a rare sight. According to a legend of the Scottish Highlands, whoever has been granted a glimpse of the green flash, or green ray, as this appearance is called, can never afterward be deceived in love. This notion forms the basis of Jules Verne's novel, "Le Rayon Vert." It figures also in a novel by Mrs. F.A. Steel entitled "Red Rowans." The heroine of the latter, living on the coast of Scotland, watches long for the green flash before she is rewarded with a sight of it, and at one stage of the story becomes involved in an argument over the possibility of seeing it at all.

The green flash is a much commoner spectacle than might be inferred from these tales. During the years 1902-07 Dutch seamen were asked by Dr. A.A. Nijland, of Utrecht, to keep a lookout for this phenomenon and they reported 745 observations. Moreover, 254 observations were reported by one man, E. Havinga, then first officer of the "Rotterdam Lloyd," during ten voyages from Holland to the Dutch East Indies, between July 12, 1902, and Oct. 21, 1905.

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