

For Release  
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**Auroras!** These brilliant colored lights of the northern sky are often so intense as to excite fear in many people, even causing them to believe that auroras will set fire to their dwellings. They are harmless and are caused by electric discharges in the upper air. They occur most often when there are the greatest number of sunspots, as at present. They may even furnish us energy; for telegraph operators have during the best displays worked their instruments simply by using earth currents, the regular electric battery being cut off. This may be explained by the magnetic disturbances which always accompany the auroras. Some have believed that they occur at certain seasons or during certain moon phases, but there seems to be no truth in this whatsoever.

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