

chance in 10 they would grow wheat. He'd multiply things that way until he got astronomical chances. It reminded me of a review I once saw of a book by Harold Bell Wright, many years ago in which they said how ridiculous the book was because the book told about the inter-relation of a group of people in a ~~resort~~ resort somewhere in Arkansas, I think. And there was somebody from NY state and there was somebody from California and somebody from Nevada. Now what are the chances there will be somebody from NY state? Say there are 50 states -- so there would be one chance in 50. Then the person comes from a certain town in NYork. Say there are 1000 towns. What are the chances there will be someone there from one of those towns? One in 1000.

You multiply this all up. Well, you could take any place where you get a lot of people visiting from different parts of the world and take the chances there would be somebody from that place and you could prove it could not exist! This fellow Stoner multiplied astronomically--it was one chance in 50 trillion it would be this. I thought that was a lot of nonsense when I read the first edition.

He had some good points in it. Very good. But to my notion he invalidated them with what I would say was some very faulty reasoning. It may be that with some revisions something fairly decent could be worked out of it. I don't know.

He had heard of a thing I had not heard of that Moody has gotten out a Moody film that Stoner spoke in -- the Professor and the Prophets. He said the film was not very effective because Stoner looked like such an old and decrepit fellow that he did not make much impression. He said they ought to redo it and you do it. I said, Well I'm old and decrepit! Yes, he said, but you come on strong!

I don't think Stoner was much of an authority in any particular direction. He was an earnest Christian fellow. I think he did some good. He was one of the original founders of the American Scientific Affiliation, and did some very good things, but I think you can over extend your argument. Life is full of coincidences. Eckelmann said to me, Even if the chances are only 1/10th as great as Stoner says, they would still be tremendous. I'm not ~~xx~~ sure it's 1/1000 of what Stoner says.

He talked up this matter of fulfilled prophecy. I've been very interested in this. I have about enough material to fill 2 good talks of about 40 min. each. A talk I often used to give in which I would show the probabilities of predicting the future. I'd go into that a bit and give illustrations from ancient times of pseudo-prophecy. How they were ambiguous which ever way they came out. Then I would give 3 or 4 good illustrations from the Bible of predictions that were remarkably fulfilled. I soon got about enough that I had to pick for a message because I'd give more or less the same introduction and then really it would take me an hour and a half to cover the material I thought was really solid.