

Broadstone, Dorset.  
June 2nd. 1903

J. R. Collins Esq.

Dear Sir  
Many thanks for  
your very interesting letter & the  
paper & photos. of the Nova Persei  
Neb.

The astronomical criticisms  
of my article are, as you say,  
very weak, - while the French  
ones are even weaker, & both,  
(in this month's Knowledge) quote  
me as claiming our system to be  
in the exact centre of the Milky  
Way - a word I have carefully  
avoided using. The one real  
difficulty I feel is, that I cannot

show evidence for the stable  
position of our sun during  
the epoch required for the  
development of Life. The  
observed & calculated motion of  
sun and stars is nothing, as all  
may be moving in orbits small  
or large, but the difficulty  
is to find or suggest any  
probable centre of attraction  
for part or the whole of the  
Stellar universe.

I have nearly finished a  
book on the subject, & the  
part on the earth being the  
only inhabited planet in  
the Solar System comes out  
very clear, & I think will

satisfy most people.

If you have anywhere met  
with even a suggestion of a  
possible orbital motion for  
our system within the orbit  
of the Milky Way, I shall be  
very glad if you will refer  
me to it at once as I  
shall begin printing next  
month.

Believe me

Yours very truly

Alfred R. Wallace

at the time of writing a solar  
orbit was not demonstrable but  
Plaschke with others some years after  
was able to determine its orbit to  
be in the direction of Sagittarius in  
an elongated cometary orbit in an area  
where the streams of