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Someone spoke of a new frontier in a new Age,
And a new science called Astronautics.
"The Age of Space," someone said.
"The Age of the Rocket and Interplanetary Flight."
And suddenly it came to us that this was our Age,
And our new frontier.
The challenge was clear,
Out there the beckoning moon,
The planets wheeling in their orbits,
The distant stars glittering in black sky.
Today in the laboratories a golden sphere
Waits to be flung from this other sphere called Earth.
"Project Vanguard," they call it,
An artificial satellite—but more than that.
Let us call it, instead, a first great step,
One stride into the unknown tomorrow,
And let us rejoice that we are here to take that step,
And that we shall be here to take the next
Into the ultimate knowledge
Of what lies out there in the darkness.
We are fortunate to stand at the beginning
Of Mankind's most daring journey
And know that we are prepared for our part in it.
The Venture into Space awaits,
And here is our record of some of the events
That have made us ~~ready~~.

