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# A VISION OF THE FUTURE.

BY AN ANCIENT PROPHET.

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DELIVERED AT CHICAGO. SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1888.

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## INVOCATION.

Infinite Jehovah; God of eternity; Thou Who in the past hath created all things; Thou to Whom the visible universe is as naught; matchless in Thy Supreme Being, yet from whose breath all visible things have been fashioned: suns, and systems, and myriads of suns in their places; Thou who hast seen the earth from the beginning cradled in space, and through time and change hast seen its unfoldment and planned its destiny; yet feeble as is the body each soul is allied to Thee; and Thou O God, hath seen the end of the earth from the beginning. We praise Thee though there shall be an end to the earth, though the suns and stars shall be blotted out and pass again into chaos, souls are immortal and abide forever in eternity. We praise Thee that in the midst of time and change the knowledge of this immortal heritage is with man, that through revelation, through angelic ministration, through the knowledge that comes from within man is made aware of his divine inheritance. O Thou who guidest the future, Thou who in the light seest the rise and fall of empires and nations, and the crumbling away of human dynasties, unto Thee we turn in confidence and trust, knowing that every hope unfulfilled shall yield its blossoming and fruitage unto the life of man, and every promise of exaltation and truth shall be fulfilled. May every heart turn to Thee in praise, and may all turn confidently, knowing that such hopes as are of the dust shall perish with the clay, such as are of the skies shall abide forever. Make unto each heart a living prophecy, unto every life a revelation of the soul, until there shall come to the earth and to all the nations of the earth the knowledge of that divine kingdom, the glory of that life divine; then indeed shall Thy kingdom come on earth and Thy will be done, even as in heaven. Amen.

## DISCOURSE.

"The earth is as a wilderness or a desert, and man in journeying across a desert or through a wilderness has but one hope: an oasis on the desert, or a wellspring in the wilderness."—From the Arabic.

The habitable world teems with abundance, yields fruition unto the industry of man; but there are large wastes, freezing polar regions, desert th

are uninhabitable, across which at great peril man must traverse to reach distant countries, seas are treacherous, yet, encompassing their might, man has crossed them with the swift wings of steam, and has made the "girdle around the earth" predicted by the poet, has fulfilled many dreams which in past ages seemed impossible; that which he now performs with the swiftness, almost, of thought, in former days required months and years; that which to-day is the common possession of the civilized world, was in former periods but the possession of a portion of mankind and that of the favored few; yet with all the seeming progress, with the advancement in the arts and mechanical appliances, with such advantages as a perfect commerce seems to give, there still is much that is lacking: desolation sweeping down from the Northern region, the cry of those who are perishing with cold and hunger smite upon the ear and upon human hearts; the desert wastes yield nothing unto the hand of man, and across trackless paths man seems in vain to wander for the light and strength, and beauty of his being; there are prophecies still within the soul unfulfilled, there are glimpses of an earthly paradise not yet realized. Into that future, by the power of inspiration, prophets, seers and poets, have oftentimes had glimpses; yet it is not given for all to hope, nor for all to realize those conceptions; yet for such as lean toward that future and would wish to understand what the earth shall yield, we will give, prophetically, the future, as it shall appear in that higher civilization that is dawning, of which you are now in but the first faint streaks of the morning, of which this is the first feeble expression.

That which you call speed will seem, in those days, as the slowest pace. for not only will the velocity of steam be superseded by electrical and atmospheric motors, but swifter than light, which in itself is the swift bearing messenger of life and death, will be your motor in the future.

Out of the atmosphere, when the earth has yielded up her treasures, and you have well nigh exhausted them at their fountain sources, new forms of motor power will come to man's mind, that which was never dreamed of before in the earth will be revealed, for the earth is continually changing, continually creating new things, that shall yield themselves unto the hand of man. Where you now seem to walk or run you will then fly; for the air itself is as navigable as the ocean, as traversable as the earth, and there will be found less resistance to the wonderful motor of the future in aerial navigation than by any method which man now encircles the globe. The cumbering method of steam, the dangerous locomotive, the clashing of railways, and the sounding of steam engines will be unknown: swift, silent, secure in the aerial ships of the future man will encircle the globe as upon wings of light; none of those struggles, none of those clashings, that now make hideous even the perfection of your methods, will occur.

Light itself will be your message bearer, for by systems of refraction and reflection the light will convey a message to the most distant parts of the earth; by its flashing the message will be known. Language will be symbolized in light; a certain number of rays or of colors will form vibrations of similar rays and colors upon the opposite sides of the earth. Man will transmit intelligence by atmospheric vibrations, or by vibrations of light. You think electricity a wonderful message bearer: so it is. Ever since Olympian Jove handled the thunders and the lightnings nothing has been so wonderful as that man should make a plaything of the thunderbolts of Jove; but with all its rapidity electricity is destined to sink into insignificance by the side

of the more rapid method, the more perfect communication which in the future will be formed upon currents of light. The sun, which is the great natural motor of the solar system, which by its pulsations of light and heart-beats of rays impels worlds into their orbits and holds them by its attractive power, sweeps on with them through spaces unknown, forming the wonderful laws of the physical geography of the universe, the sun will be the great motor power of all forms of life. Even as the gigantic oak is upbuilt in its structure by the subtle alchemy of the earth in response and conformity to the sun's rays; as the delicate petals of the rose and the lily are fashioned by the uplifting power of those same rays, as man must walk upright in response to the sunshine, so with the wings of thought, with the new appliance that he shall discover, with the inventions that are now in spirit life, and not in mortal life at all, there shall come the control of swift winged messengers and motor powers of earth.

There will be no longer arid wastes and deserts uninhabitable by man, and no mountain fastnesses in which there are no objects of verdure, but all these things will be under the control of man's will; even as he now measurably controls or conforms to the elements he will then, not only by electrical, but by solar vibrations produce moisture where all is barren now. Then deserts will spring up as beautiful gardens and man will receive the reward of his industry and labor. Nor will there be freezing regions, nor will there be desolating storms sweeping down over cities, towns, and hamlets destroying the fruition of man's labor. So will men combine for the united purpose of benefiting the whole, that their fields will be protected, and the winds, not only diverted from their course, but changed into balmy breezes, and the destructive agents will be agents of benefaction to mankind. As now, oftentimes, man changes the course of rivers, makes artificial reservoirs for his own use and that of other men, so in time these devastating currents of air will be employed for the benefit of man instead of for his destruction. The things that he has planted, the fields that he has cultivated, the houses that he has built, the treasures that he has gathered together and call his home, will be no longer at the mercy and prey of these elements.

It is intended, also, that the mountains shall be made available: those natural towers, reaching far up into the clouds, will be made the bases of mighty and wonderful towers of communication; all the elements will there be watched and under the control of man; whereas now the signal service stations upon the highest mountain peaks are sometimes at the mercy of the elements, then man will control them. Around about the mountain tops will be summer verdure, blooming roses and all things lovely to the eye, because the atmosphere will be under man's control.

Ships which seem miracles of speed now crossing your oceans will then seem as slow and clumsy in their course as the ancient barques seem today; more than this, for the wings of thought that enable man to mount into the air will so brood over the waters that there will be no need of ships on the water. The air itself has a suggestion of motion more matchless than the flight of bird; who has not wished to fly? That is aspiration; not in the sense that the bird flies, but in the sense that man overcomes all physical obstacles, surmounting the air successfully, encircling the globe will be fulfilled: all production will yield unto man what is intended and expected; no fruitage will be abortive, the blossoms will not fail to yield fruition, that which is planted now is wasted ere yet the fruition is given man, he will not watch through the long weary days to see the harvest fail just before the time for reaping, everything that is at war with man, with the production, with the industry of his hand and the labor of his mind will be over-

come: he will learn what methods to adopt, what means to devise, in what way to combat the elements around him: by these higher methods he will conquer where now he is vanquished.

How many weary weeks the farmer must wait for the fruition of his toil, to find only starvation in the end. How many years he must wait for his home to be beautiful, and his surroundings to be perfect; then they are destroyed: one season's blight, one winter's snow, one desolation of insect's ravaging power destroys the work of a life time: this will not be so in the coming time.

Then, also, the diseases that affect mankind, that in the infancy of his growth naturally come because of his lack of knowledge, will have been overcome, he will no longer fight malarial disease at his very door; there will no longer be those diseases carried from clime to clime on the wings of desolation; no longer from the mouth of the Ganges will the ancient horrors spread over the world: no longer from the desolating Indies will the disease germs, implanted there hundreds of years ago, be transmitted to the civilizations of the earth. The all conquering power of the human mind, the unfoldment of the human spirit will accomplish all.

The earth yields readily unto the hand and mind of man, and the earth must find man its master and not its slave ere it will yield; he who is vanquished by the senses, or by the elements becomes the slave of the dust, but he who conquers them, not only by despising them, but by learning their perfect uses becomes triumphant.

The ancient alchemist shutting himself in his cave and cloister for years to find out the secret sources of life, the wellsprings of that immortal existence by which he could conquer death; those who through many a weary night and many a day's length, have, year after year, sought to find the wonders of the starry heavens and the geometrical ratios of creation, those who have, in the deeper mysteries of occult science, endeavored to find that which is seemingly unfathomable; the secret wellsprings of life, the source of power in the human spirit; all these are suggestions and prophecies, in a manner, of what the earth shall be.

The human race grown from feebleness and deformity to still greater perfection, shall, compared to the present type of mankind, seem as angels unto the creeping things of earth. Whereas now there are none perfect, or but few who can bear the test of rigid scrutiny, the race will advance to such perfection that there will be rarely any deformity, since deformity will have worked its lesson in the world and will no longer be necessary.

The spiritual sources of these things may be hidden, the causes which enable us to see them are not within your ken, but none the less are they spiritual; the spiritual nature of man is the basis of that which is in his material surroundings. That which now makes the discord, jargon, striving, and contention of earth will melt away under the benign influence of perfect love and perfect peace, this will distribute itself into the atmosphere of earth. When man discovers anything for the benefit mankind, he will neither hoard it up, nor seek for its possession to the exclusion of any, but it will be for the benefit of the whole. There will neither be monopolies of inspiration, intellect, nor wealth.

Bare and barren as is the desert of Sahara it is not so desolate as the desert of a crowded city without human sympathy. Dreary as is the wilderness to the lone traveler, it is not so dreary as this very city in the midnight hour to the poor outcast.

When civilization seeks to possess the treasures of the earth it must be based upon the highest standard. We see that future time when it will not be possible for a pauper to walk the streets of any city of earth; we see that future time when no one shall be starving for bread while others have abundance; we see that future time when no one shall hoard up with the greed of gain the work of their hands and brain, but shall scatter, like the artist in the ancient story, his works of beauty until the whole world shall be filled with loveliness. Or like Pan the sweet piper, who charmed all living things with his strains: the spirits of boys, girls, men, women, goat-herds, animals, birds, all things listened to the piping of sweet Pan. So the lesson to learn is that when one has the gift of music, art, or poesy, or can make the earth beautiful, or when one can find gold, or what gold will purchase, it is for man.

To the eyes of angels the desert of the Western Plains, the desert of Sahara is not so desolate a place as the desert of human selfishness, and if you will not have these arid wastes, if you will not have these impassable wildernesses, if you will not have these mountain torrents sweeping down destroying the work of years, human selfishness must gradually give way to the amenities of human life. We mean this, not simply in a large ideal sense, we mean it in that truly ideal sense that it shall be incorporated into the daily life.

Here is a section of the country, and the avarice of those who own, rather who have taken violent possession of it from the former occupants and therefore claim it, will have a levee built: the country, or government, or whatever powers that be, applies a portion of the revenue of the country to build the levee that protects certain industries, cotton and sugar cane then is produced there. Years go by and naturally the debris of the river bed raises that river bed higher and still higher until the surrounding country is many feet lower than the levee, many feet lower than the river bed, and boats go by sailing, seemingly, in the air, although they are not air ships. There must be taxes to keep that levee in order; that interest must be protected at the expense of the whole country. What must an unselfish government do? If the knowledge were sufficient it would leave a country alone that needs a levee. By natural deposits after many years it will be arable, as it is the tendency of the river to make its own bed and the country to rise higher by this deposit, after a few generations there will be sufficient soil. There is room enough without it, but no, every foot of land, every acre of territory, all the richness of the soil must be drained to the grasping, eager hand of man. But the plains lie idle while this one great source of revenue goes on draining the country. The same is true of every local interest in the world.

Whoever imposes upon man for the protection of a local interest enslaves mankind, mortgages the heritage of the future generations. The industry that is not universal, that is not competitive, that is not open to the whole world, is not a useful industry in the end, though in the beginning it may seem to be wise, there comes a time when it is fatal, when human selfishness stultifies itself by its own endeavor and there is a recoil from it.

Whatever is valuable or beneficial that is stored away within the heart of the earth is intended for the use of man. Woe unto that man or combination of men who shall place unnecessary impediments between the treasure which nature has given and the need of man. There comes a time when the reaction ensues, and that which is supposed to be a blessing is a curse, People freezing to death in a land where there is stored away an abundance of fuel is such a monstrosity as should not occur in an enlightened country; people starving to death

with store houses full of grain is such a monstrosity as could only be known in Egypt under the dark reign of a Pharaoh: and who knows but the Joseph is coming to set the stores of the king free for the people?

The vision of the future is that there can be no want where there is abundance, and that these treasures of knowledge and wealth, or its equivalent, that are hoarded up are simply excrescences of that which is misnamed civilization.

In that fair and beautiful time that we have pictured no man will hoard up wealth, for it will be an unnecessary power; all who are ill, or aged, or infirm, and little children will be provided for; all adult people will consider it a privilege to toil for their daily bread, instead of stealing it from their fellow man. In that coming time there will be no thought of idleness, no thought of over weariness, the days will be found abundantly long for the toil of the hands and sufficiently long for all heeded recreation and pleasure; the nights will not be over burdened with weariness; men will not sink into couches that are but pallets of straw while others are enabled to sleep in palaces of luxury. In that time this greed, love of gain and of self will be such infamy, such deformity, that in looking back upon the pages of the history of those who dwelt in your time and age one will say see what barbarians those Christian people were: they slaughtered one another for gold, they robbed one another of their territory and land, and even in communities in time of peace they kept their doors locked against one another, fearing robbers! Such will be the amazement that when they read that which is traced upon Christian temples, "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you" and then see what men did, they will wonder still more at the hypocrisy, audacity, and blasphemy of a race that could not only be Christian and barbarian, but assume one law of guidance and practice its opposite.

In that time there will be no need that the Golden Rule shall be inscribed upon temples: for it will be inscribed upon every human heart. Little children instead of being taught to falsify, almost from their birth, will understand the golden flower of truth, so the innocent fire of the guileless will not be burned into falsehood and shame: there will be nothing in human society that requires policy, that one should disguise one's interest, feelings, or purposes: so fair will be the purposes of human beings toward one another that there will be nothing to conceal. Human infirmities, of such slight a nature will they be, that the neighbor will be more anxious to cover them with the veil of charity than will the individual be anxious to conceal them from the neighbor. So kind, and gentle, amiable will people then be toward one another that there will not be accusing, reproach, sneering, scorning nor infamy; so fair and honorable all lives will then become that there will be no need to conceal the daily pathway, to hide the footsteps as one totters home, nor to cover with cringing and cowardice the deeds and thoughts of a busy day. Then the thief will not be lurking about in the night to take possession of that which other thieves have taken in broad day light. Then there will be no need that there shall be bolts, bars, and locks to keep men from preying upon one another's possessions: all the treasures then upon the earth will be the possession of all, and if a man should rob another, why, he would simply rob himself.

Then the temples will be such places as, not only are dreamed of in idyllic poetry, but as all hope some day to see: beneath the arching heavens fair pavilions and broad domes opening to the skies and air, where gentle breezes fan each brow. Beneath these sheltering domes all the world may come and worship: such worship as can only come from the gladness of perfect lives and pure



hearts, angels joining in the glad refrain; flowers that blossom on every hand, nurtured by skillful care, and lending their incense offering unto heaven. Multitudes gathering; such strains of music as only the highest masters have dreamed, but never yet given to the earth because the earth was not ready: such sound of human voices in thanksgiving and song of praise as would make the choirs of heaven bend and listen to the music. Prayers that are the natural, spontaneous offering of the spirit whether in spoken word or that which is better still, in a goodly life of praise, a constant grateful life of prayer.

Then the voices that flow from the other world: in that coming time men will not be ashamed that angels and ministering spirits shall walk by their sides and daily minister unto them, who now turn away from the message of the skies lest its too searching power shall find out a hidden shadow.

Aye? Not only will man lean toward heaven then, but there will no need of turning away, for the voice of the child will not be to reproach, the message from the sainted mother will not recall to the human heart the scenes that are unworthy; the wife or sister may bend lovingly between, because there is nothing to conceal. In that day hearts will be open to communion with spirit life, because not seared over with worldliness, and not desolated by human passion and shame.

Think of an angel in the pandemonium of the commercial mart of a crowded city! Yet there be hours when angels even bend there: when Mammon, with his awful greed has hold upon human life, some almost tottering brain there might sweep, even into that place of horror, an angel and gently remove from danger the mind that was faltering: as angels bend over prison cells, as they watch beside the martyr's fiery doom: as they visit places of poverty, want, and shame: as they touch the magdalen on the street whose lips grow white with an almost uttered prayer; even thus they bend above you today. But *then* angels will come and go, their presence will be no longer strange: man will not be frightened by the ghost of his own infamy to thinking the ghost of a dead man ever could haunt him, but no fear, no sinning being there the angelic messengers will be welcome everywhere. The human vision will be open, the other world will no longer be shrouded in mystery, the state, which is close to this, will be perceived and known: you will be aware of these spiritual beings that make so populous the upper heavens, and they will be a portion of the daily companionship.

In that day neither appointed priests nor kings shall rule over nations; for so supreme will be the law of self-control, and self-government, that every life will be its own king or queen, each will be his own ruler: no violent nature of restriction, no dominion of the augmented power of man will be necessary to control human action. The highest law will be enlightened law of heaven traced upon the human conscience, written in every human heart, and this will be so traced that all may read and understand it aright.

Then across the space that divides you from sister planets will no longer be the distances and silence that now intervene; but between you and the more glorious orbs, the message of life and light will be transmitted by angel ministrants, and even by the powers of your own spirits. So beautiful will spirit become that, instead of hiding it, or placing it out of sight as men do today, thinking to confess that one has a soul is evidence of weakness, then it will be the strength of the world; and poor indeed will be that life, or man, or nation who does not know that God is Love and man immortal.

## WHEN MAN BECOMES MASTER OF THE EARTH.

[ IMPROMPTU POEM; THE SUBJECT BEING GIVEN BY THE AUDIENCE. ]

And God made him to rule the earth,  
A little lower than the angels he,  
Given power from the hour of birth,  
The power of immortality;

But yielding to the senses here  
Man is the slave and not the king,  
He who of angels is the peer  
Becomes on earth a creeping thing;  
Even as the worm upon the ground  
So as a slave with dust enwound:

But as at last the worm bursts forth  
Through the chrysalis unto the light,  
And flutters everywhere on earth  
From flower to flower with new delight.

So man emerges from the sod,  
And from the shadow of dull clay,  
And in the image of his God  
At last attains on earth full sway.

By conquest over selfishness,  
Such lessons as sorrow can bring,  
By all of human sin and stain,  
By the trailing of the heavenly wing  
Within the dust, at last he must gain,  
That higher height that is free from pain.

By conquest over selfishness,  
By triumph over passion's curse,  
Thus pain, and want, and dull distress,  
And that stagnation which is worse,  
At last depart, and man can see  
With clearer vision and potency:

It is only the eye of the soul that sees,  
It is only the soul that understands;  
The dull orbs of the sense even like these,  
Dull forms of clay like human hands,  
Cannot mold and govern the earth aright;  
But only by an inward sight

That sees the sources of things below  
And understands the spirit state,  
Only through this mankind can know  
Its power, and with spirit uncreate  
Can master creation by the spell  
That within the immortal soul doth dwell.

Yes he shall conquer the world at last;  
Even though Jesus was crucified,  
Even though His pure life-blood was cast  
Upon the earth; it vivified  
The seeds that were sown in human life  
Showing the power to conquer strife.

Tempests shall bend, darkness shall yield,  
And death and terror pass away,  
For there is sown upon every field  
The blossoms of eternal day,  
Whose fruitage at last shall arise,  
And show the triumph of paradise.

## BENEDICTION.

May such God-like power as belongs unto every soul, with quivering pinions  
of might brood over every heart until each shall find the victory. Amen.

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