

*Lying down
E. Gaston*

MARS REVEALED;

OR,

SEVEN DAYS IN THE SPIRIT WORLD:

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE

SPIRIT'S TRIP TO MARS,

AND HIS RETURN TO EARTH;

WHAT HE SAW AND HEARD ON MARS, ETC..

WITH VIVID AND THRILLING DESCRIPTIONS OF ITS

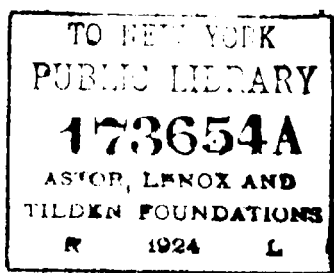
MAJESTIC SCENERY; ITS MOUNTAINS; ITS MINES; ITS VALLEYS, RIVERS, LAKES,
AND SEAS; ITS PEOPLE, TEMPLES OF LEARNING, WORSHIP, RELIGION.
MUSIC, MANNERS, CUSTOMS, LAWS; ITS HIGHLY CULTIVATED AND
PRODUCTIVE LANDS; TOGETHER WITH ITS BEAUTIFUL
PARKS, AND ITS DELIGHTFUL PARADISE.

Being a work full of diamonds of thought, and of absorbing interest:
A thrilling poem, in beautiful prose.

BY

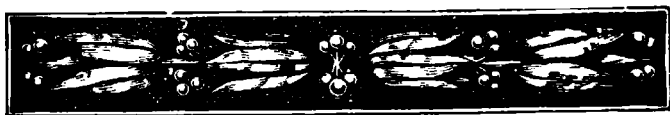
A SPIRIT YET IN THE FLESH.

23-
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PREFACE.

AS my spirit guide commanded, so I have written. Yet I have not written all I saw or heard; because my powers are too weak for such a task. Why the good spirit gave me the opportunity to visit Mars, I can not tell; but I thank him for the honor, and have tried faithfully to obey his commands.

The book will do great good to those who read it, and who obey the great precept which governs all on Mars; and as a present to a friend, it will carry many blessings too; and it will throw happiness and joy around the path of them who treasure the great precept and adopt it as their rule of action. It will elevate the minds of these to a higher plane of action; and will impress upon them the great truth that gold, and diamonds, and other precious gems, are things of little worth compared with the pure happiness of domestic life in pleasant homes, like that which marks the homes on Mars; and that the highest happiness man can gain on earth is found in doing good to others, and in promoting the happiness and joy of all; for God himself announced, through the purest Medium that ever lived in flesh upon the earth, that the crowning duty of man to man is garnered in the words, "Do unto others as ye wish others to do to you;" and they who unselfishly obey this rule from God, will be admitted to a full share of God's glorious inheritance, when they shall put on immortality and eternal life.



DEDICATION.

TO MY DAUGHTER, NELLIE:

To you, who possess so many of your noble mother's virtues, I dedicate this little book. In writing it, I have followed the directions of my spirit guide; but in dedicating it, I am left to my own inclinations.

You may wonder why I did not dedicate it to your good brothers. It is not because I love them less than I love you, but because I really fell in love with the sweet girls and noble matrons of Mars; of whom your most estimable mother and yourself constantly remind me. You may wonder, then, that I do not dedicate it to your blessed mother. My reason for not doing so is, because I intend, when she and I put on our final robes of immortality, to take your dear mother with me; not to Mars only, but to Saturn, and to all the planets which God has made, except to those where he confines evil-doers and them who blindly deny his existence; and when I have taken her to all the planets we may wish to glance at on our way, I intend to take her with me to God's great central planet and his throne. Should I put off mortality first, I will wait for her just on the other side of death's gateway, which is at the entrance of eternal life, until she comes; and should she first put on immortality, I will ask her to wait until God is

ready for me to come and join her; and when you, and Andrew, and Willie, take your departure, too, from earth, we will both be there, close by the gate of death, to greet your coming; for I have learned that families know and love each other there, even better than they know and love each other on the earth; for there the true motives of the heart are known, while on the earth they are often hidden and can not be wholly revealed. That your life, my girl, both on earth and in heaven, may be joyous, happy, and cheerful, is the earnest hope of

Your loving

EARTHLY FATHER.





LETTER FROM A FRIEND.

SAN JOSE, September 1, 1880.

MY DEAR FRIEND:

I thank you for the privilege of reading the manuscript of "Mars Revealed, or Seven Days in the Spirit World," in advance of its publication.

It is a wonderful and fascinating book; wonderful in its conception, in its plan, and in its execution; and it is fascinating in its interest, in its doctrines, in its positions, and in its descriptions. It fills a void which has long been felt in the minds of all who think of, and who have loved ones in the spirit land.

I have read it with an intensity of interest such as I never felt in reading any book before, and with a satisfaction such as I never before experienced, for it is rich in imagery, perfect in morals, delicious, reasonable, and satisfying in religion, and is a constant succession of most agreeable surprises.

For its scope, it is the most perfect collection of great and pure thoughts, and gems of expression, that I ever read in prose; and, to particularize in a single instance, I must say that the answer to the question of the companion spirit, "Who is this Josie, of whom you speak?" in chapter

29, is the noblest tribute of husband to his wife of years, that I ever saw expressed in words.

The book is a perfect poem, in most delightful and enchanting prose; and it will doubtless live as long as intelligence prevails on the earth, and be considered the more valuable as time progresses. Some may consider it a beautiful romance, and read its vivid descriptions of the delightful mountain and tropical scenery of Mars as the imaginative product of a fanciful and fertile brain; while most thoughtful and spiritually-inclined persons, and those who incline to spiritualism—for it contains the very essence of spiritual philosophy—will accept it, as I am inclined to, and do, as a true revelation of the condition of things, and of faith on Mars. And it may be that these will adopt the reasonable form of worship prevailing there in their assemblages.

The book will possess a peculiar, and to many, a quieting interest, to the people of the earth at this time of the perihelion of the planets, when they are so nearly approaching a cycle which occurs to the worlds of our system only once in 25,827 of earth's years, and which was foretold by Chaldean and Egyptian astronomers, and recorded on the great astronomical pyramid of Egypt more than 11,000 years ago, as we reckon years here on the earth.

The descriptions of music in the temples on Mars—particularly the storm—and all the ceremonies there, and, indeed, all the descriptions given in the book, present the scenes described as vividly to my mind as words could paint them, though much is left for the imagination to complete.

Were the book an *allegory*, it would be entitled to as high a place in the general estimation, as “Pilgrim's Progress” holds among Christians; and most persons will doubtless

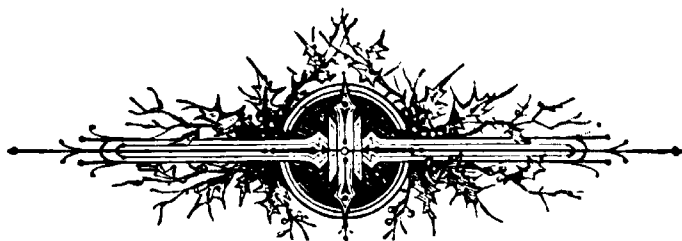
read it with a much greater interest than that elicits, while all who incline to spiritualism, and to the beautiful and pure doctrines of Emanuel Swedenborg, will read its doctrines of love and eternal life, with an intense relish and delight.

From the clergy, and from some of the churches, the book will doubtless meet with much bitter hatred and opposition; for its mild, yet glowing and incisive words, cut in pieces and divide many of their favorite bigotries, like a double and keen-edged Damascus blade.

With many thanks for the favor you conferred by permitting me to read the manuscript, and hoping that I may travel with you in the spirit world,

I remain ever your
FRIEND.





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CHAPTER I.

A Scene on Earth—A Celestial Spirit Visits a Spirit in the Flesh—The Spirit from Heaven Offers to take the Man in Spirit, to any Planet in Space—The Offer Accepted—The two Spirits Leave together for Mars.

IT was in the spring-time. All things around me seemed radiant with joy. The valley was clothed in robes of green, and flowers of great variety were gayly laughing in the genial sunlight in every direction. I lay beneath the broad branches of a leafy oak, which stood upon a gentle elevation, and whose ponderous size proclaimed the centuries of its growth. The valley was great in its dimensions, and beautiful in its appointments. Far to the north and to the south the level plain terminated in the distant horizon. On the east, ranges of lofty mountains reared their majestic forms until their hoary heads were covered with eternal snows; while in the distant west, a lower mountain range seemed to await the setting sun. Broad rivers, fed by the snow-clad eastern range, flowed toward me from the south and north, and mingled their cold waters in a wide, deep lake nearly at my feet, and there washed the base of another mountain, which proudly looked down upon the lake and me. A gentle breeze from the bright waters fanned my cheeks, and ruffled my hair, now strongly mixed with gray. A placid quietness stole over me, and I said to my-

self: "If my other self, my noble mate, were here, this would be heaven."

I thought I slept. Prone on the green grass I lay, and glad visions came and went in quick succession, filling my frame with more than earthly joy.

I thought I dreamed; and in my dream I saw a man of most majestic form and countenance approach me. Taller than myself but little, he moved with a grace I had never seen before among the sons of men. Long, light-brown hair fell gracefully upon his shoulders, and from his generous face radiated light and beauty indescribable. His beard, dividing at the chin, fell right and left upon his breast like a mantle, rich and brown, even below his waist. His forehead beamed with intelligence; and his stately tread seemed to be on air alone; for I knew not then, he was a spirit.

He spoke. "O, man," said he, "blessed with a noble wife, a daughter, and two noble sons on earth, and with capacities almost infinite, why rest ye here in idleness, when it is in your power to know the grand arcana of the planets, which attend on yonder sun, and even to approach the great central orb of God?"

"Because," I answered, "I did not know it was in my power to visit any planet but this earth."

"To most men," he said, "this power is not given until after what you call death; but to you it shall be given to visit where you may desire."

"Had any other than yourself said this to me," I said, "I would not have believed him; but you seem endowed with power, and if you can take me to our next outside neighbor, Mars, I shall be glad to go."

A look of sadness seemed to flash across his brow as I said this; but he said: "Earth has many neighbors, quite

as interesting as Mars; but come," and with this he touched me with his hand, and said: "Come, and I will show thee Mars, and will teach thee much thou hast not known, and show thee many things which border on infinity."

Then I arose, for I had been reclining until now, but as I rose I saw that my body still remained reclining there beneath the tree. I felt free to move at will, and was; and yet I knew that it was myself that moved, and not my body, lying there. Then I said, "Explain this, for I see my body still reposing there under the tree, and yet I feel that I, myself, am here."

"You are in the spirit, now," he said, "but fear not for the body you leave here, for no evil shall befall the tenement in which you have lived so many years; and you shall, in great vigor, occupy it again, until your final release from its cumbrous enthrallment. But come, we will now move outward toward the planet of your choice."

"It sometimes makes me giddy to rise to lofty heights," I said, "and I don't know that I shall dare to go so far above the earth's broad surface."

"That is a weakness of the flesh," he said, "which shows its tendency to gravitate toward earth and earthly things; but the free spirit soars at will, to highest points in space, without a thought of dizziness;" and, so saying, his mild and irresistible influence drew me with him, upward and outward, through transparent air and space, toward the far-off planet Mars.





CHAPTER II.

A Bird's-eye View of the Earth and Moon as the Spirits Fly through Space
—Conversation on the way between Earth and Mars—Man Explained—
What the Spirit is—The Soul—Life—Man's Littleness compared with
the Great Works of God—God's Love for all His Creatures—The Con-
dition of Man in the Spirit World.

AS we journeyed on through ether, upheld by the strong will of my spirit guide, many great thoughts, and new, came upon me. Soon, beneath us, we could see one half of all the great, round earth, spread out before us as a map; its broad oceans of water encircling lands, and many rivers, which seemed but rivulets, winding their tortuous courses from the mountain ranges to the great waters; a vast and everchanging panorama of most interesting sights. Near our right the cloudless, barren moon seemed like a blighted earth, swinging, not whirling like the earth, but gently swinging round it, as if attached thereto by some power invisible. At a glance I saw that the elevations and depressions of the moon's rugged surface were greater than those of the earth around which it swung, and that it seemed to be almost motionless, while the earth revolved, most rapidly.

But these things found slight lodgment in my thoughts, for we soon were looking out through unbounded and transparent space alone, and there we saw myriads of worlds, all wheeling on, with no support but His will and law who

made them; and in my excitement, as I saw them there, I exclaimed: "O, my companion, what is man, that God, who created all the worlds we see, and who sustains them in their orbits, should think of him? Or what are the children of men, that God should care for them?"

Then he said: "To explain this is one reason why I came to you as you lay beneath the tree; and of a truth, many great and wonderful things shall be revealed to you, which you have not known before, and which to you were mysteries."

Then I asked him again: "What is man?"

"Man on earth," he answered, "is a triune being, composed of matter which represents and constitutes his bodily form, and is recognized by his fellows and the animate creation on earth; of spirit, which prevades his whole form, and to spirits appears as the outward form appears to men; and of the soul, which, embodied within and combined with the spirit, directs all the thoughts of man, his aspirations, and his affections. These last are the gift of God, and partake of his divinity, and are a result of his laws respecting man's existence."

"I suppose I shall understand all this after a while," I said, "but may I ask you what life is?"

"Life," answered he, "is that principle which makes its possessor conscious of existence, and is inseparable from the spirit."

"What, then, is spirit?" I asked.

"Spirit," answered he, "is a form like the form of man; but is invisible to natural or fleshly eyes. It possesses all the attributes, senses, and parts of man; and to spiritual eyes, is the development of the soul, or real man within."

"What, then, is the soul?" I asked.

"The soul," said he, "is the real being, man, encased

within the spirit form; and consists of the reason, the understanding, the memory, and the affections, in combination with consciousness of identity."

"When I asked you, 'what is a spirit?' you said, 'it is a form like the form of man.' Is it, then, nothing more than a form?" I asked.

"Yes, far more," he answered; "for the spirit is the embodiment and life of the soul, and directs and should control the understanding, the memory, and affections of the man, as well as all his actions. These three are combined, and constitute the spirit, and without them all the spirit could not be."

"Man, when compared with the great works of God, is smaller than the least particle of dust compared with the earth now rolling past us; why, then, does God care for so small a thing as man?"

"God cares for man mainly," answered he, "because he made man a miniature of himself, and placed within him a germ of Deity. Man has within him a spark of true divinity, and it is this which gives to him capacity for examining, and, in a small measure, for comprehending God's works. Another reason why God cares for man is, because he himself breathed into man the breath of his own life, and made him a living soul, which soul is in miniature of God, and, in a measure, partakes of his attributes and capacities."

"Yet, I do not fully understand," I said, "why God should care for so small a thing as man, even though he were made in God's image, for man is a very little thing."

"Man, in a small degree, partakes of the nature and attributes of God himself; and has within him the germ of eternal life, and a capacity for increasing in knowledge forever; and God, in his wise goodness, determined, when he made man, and gave to him the power of continuing his

species, that he and his children should increase in knowledge, if they desired, and used the means he gave them, forever; and that they should be permitted to examine without end the glories of God's works, and to enjoy throughout an eternity of cycles and cycles without end, their beauty, their greatness, and their majesty."

"I have been taught," I said, "that the good men and women of the earth, who feared God, and kept his commandments, would all be assembled at the last day, and would sing praises unto him forever and ever. How will this be?"

"God prefers that all his intelligent creatures should love rather than fear him, and although all who love him, and do right, according to his revelations to them, will always sing praises to him in their hearts, yet he will permit them to go where they will, and examine all the works of his hands, in all the divisions of unbounded space, and in all his works they will find cause to praise, to bless, and to glorify the wisdom, the goodness, and the greatness of their creator, and the majesty of his works."

"With all the revelations we have in the book which we call 'God's Word,'" I said, "I am almost afraid to ask if all mankind will live after their life on earth; but if I am permitted, I will ask it."

"Yes," said he; "all will live after their lives on earth; but all will not live in the same sphere. Those of the highest culture of soul, and goodness of heart, and of like pure tastes and manner of thought, will be in nearest communion with God himself; and to them, sooner than to any others, will be revealed the beauty and magnificence of his works throughout the limitless realms of space. Those of lower development, and of grosser tastes, will occupy another and less elevated sphere; and will be content

during many cycles with examining the lower orders of God's creation; while those whose willful perversion of the reason which God has given them has led them to so blind their eyes that they fail to see God in any of his works, will occupy a sphere of imperfect darkness, and will there regret for many cycles and in great shame and sorrow their former blindness; and yet even these will praise God for his greatness and his goodness, for mercifully preserving *them*. The lowest and most debased among mankind will occupy a sphere lower than these all, and will have before them at all times, the evidence and record of their crimes; murderers with murderers, thieves with thieves, and liars with their fellow-liars, each in their sphere; and when ages on ages of the cycles of eternity shall have passed, none of these will have discovered any of the beauties of the bleak planet to which they are consigned; but they live on forever with fresh memory of their evil deeds, and in indescribable regrets.

"In all the grades into which mankind have divided themselves, those of like tastes and practices on earth, will occupy like spheres after their change. Each man on earth, by his thoughts and practices, determines his condition and his sphere in the spirit-world; and the condition and sphere of woman there, are determined by the same rule as those of man."





CHAPTER III.

Consciousness of the Spirit of Earth—The Earth and Moon in the Distance
—Drawing near to Mars—Light all through Space—Man's Progression—
First Near View of Mars—The Spirits Alight upon a Mountain Summit
—Views of Mars—Terraced Mountain Sides—Villages, Lakes, Forests,
etc.—Beautiful Homes—Lights in the Distance.

THUS we talked, as we made our outward flight towards Mars; nor was I conscious for the time that I was not in the flesh. I thought not of it. I spoke with my lips, heard with my ears, and saw with my eyes; but now I turned a moment, and, backward looking, saw the moon as a little star; and the broad earth appeared but little larger than the moon itself, when full, appears to men on earth. Before us now, in the near distance, whirled a beautiful globe, all unsupported in space, while all around was light. Toward this we moved. Since we left earth no shadow had appeared; but all through space, glad, joyous light seemed to prevail. I asked my companion the cause.

"Light," he answered, "is the normal condition of the universe of space, in which God has suspended the universes of worlds which obey his will. His greater worlds he has made vast reservoirs of light; and the less, on all of which he placed inhabitants like men, in image of himself, he supplies with light from these sources. Darkness, at any point in space, is always an exception. The shadow of any planet

ends in a point. Beyond such point, and all around such shadow, light exists. All this God appointed for the good of his living creatures, that they all might find rest and joy, according to the natures with which he endowed them, and thus give them cause for gratitude to him for his care and goodness."

"I think I understand," I answered, "but I should like to ask why did not God clothe man, as he clothed the birds and beasts, instead of leaving him exposed to the inclemencies of weather and of the seasons to which the earth is subject?"

"Because he gave man God-like reason in the stead of luxuries and dress. He made man lord of all the earth and master of the seas, and placed within his reach all means necessary to supply his wants; and as man, by reason and in compliance with God's laws, has brought himself more and more near to the Creator's knowledge, God has led him to add wisdom unto wisdom until many of the laws of God are made subservient to the will and needs of man. God presents his laws before the constant sight of man, and encourages him to continue his advance; and, though slow, he will advance as rapidly as he avails himself of the benefits of God's laws, whether they be called 'natural' or 'revealed.' What need had man for clothing, then, when he had these greater gifts? But see," he added, "we now are near the planet Mars, and I desire to turn your thoughts to its grandeur and magnificence."

I looked forward then, and just before us lay the grandest sight I had ever seen. One half a world in ruby, emerald, and silver, seen through an atmosphere of loveliest pink, lay, like a map, spread out before me, but ever changing in its aspect. We approached it from the west; for my companion said that its eastward motion was so

swift on its revolving axis, that even spirits could scarce withstand the shock of alighting on it from the opposite direction. Circling gracefully around, like eagles in the upper air, we touched our feet upon the highest summit of the loftiest mountain range of the noble planet Mars, and here, for a moment, stood.

Many times I have crossed the Rocky mountain range, the Andes, Cordilleras, and the Sierras. Twice have I visited grand Mount Hood, in Oregon, and often have I watched the glacier's movement on the northern face of old Mt. Shasta. My home, in early life, was near Mount Washington, and from it, and from other mountain summits, I have often looked out on bustling villages, green fields, waving forests, and silvery lakes; but never on the earth, not even from Mount Ranier, nor Olympus—in beautiful, neglected Washington—have I seen such exquisite scenes of beauty and magnificence as here, on Mars, lay spread before me. And yet 'twas much like many picturesque scenes on earth.

The higher mountain peaks were set in casements of eternal snows, tinged with light pink, like snows in northern climes, when long-continued borealis has charged them with its ruddy hues. Below the line of snows lay dense forests of grand trees, many of whose mighty trunks excelled in girth the *Washingtonia gigantea* of earth, whose lofty tops seemed anxious to mingle with the heavens, and whose foliage was redolent with sweet perfumes. All these seemed to be arranged with consummate art, and not in the careless manner seen in mountain forests on the earth; yet such exquisite skill prevailed in their arrangement, that every view presented a constantly varying picture of wild sublimity and enchanting loveliness. From the base line of snows sprang thousands of crystal streams, which

dashed, not at random, down the mountain's sides, but were directed along its sides in terraced rivulets, to one central stream; and this, again divided, was conducted over many terraced falls, into deep basins below, and thence again were carried along the terraced mountain sides, to vivify the productive planet in all its parts, and then again the surplus waters were gathered into central streams, and moved onward to the sea. Beautiful valleys nestled at the feet of mountain peaks, filled with quaint homes, and surrounded by delightful parks and lawns, beds of flowers, and maple trees, elms, beaches, oaks and pines, birches and hemlocks, and other hardy trees. The planet seemed alive with people, useful animals, and birds. Each spot which could be made to add to happiness or pleasure, nutrition, sight, taste, or smell, was carefully improved, as are the gardens, houses, and pleasure grounds of the intelligent and tasteful ones of earth. All seemed busy for the general good. Buildings of surpassing beauty were seen far on the right, and on the left, of our point of observation. These, differing much from those on earth, can not now be described, had I the power. All over the vast plains below, here and there, in close proximity, were scattered hamlets, villages, and large cities, around all of which were cultivated lands, gardens, and fields, orchards and groves, burdened with rich fruits, vegetables, and golden grain, all prepared and raised by the generous soil and industrious hands of the busy men of Mars. The unused waters from the terraced mountain sides were turned into many natural and artificial lakes, where, afterward I learned, teemed innumerable fish of surprising excellence and beauty, and having filled their generous mission there, they flowed onward to the ruby sea. I gazed long in astonishment, delight, and joy, and turned to my companion for

relief. "We will descend," said he, "and to-morrow mingle with the people of the planet Mars, as if we were of them."

The sun had long since set in the truly golden-colored west, and I wondered that greater darkness did not steal over the varied scenes around us, when, looking westward, above the distant plain, I saw what I supposed to be a moon at full—so thoughtless was I of a fact in nature—near the horizon in the western sky; and, before we reached the point at which we were to rest, another apparent moon at full seemed, in the eastern horizon, to have crept up; thus adding light to light, and causing the night on Mars to seem like day; for thus have art and science, among the gifted sons of Mars, provided for the general happiness and good of all their people. But then I did not know that these were artificial lights; yet such they were.





CHAPTER IV.

The Spirits move Westward down the Mountain Sides, assuming the Appearance of the People of Mars—The Country densely peopled, and thoroughly cultivated—They Move toward the Central City and Temple of the Division—Geography of Mars Described—The Temples—They Arrive there, and are received at the Temple by a Beautiful Maiden—Descriptions of the Women of Mars—Our Spirit Takes Repose in the Temple.

OUR course lay westward down the mountain side, steps leading from terrace down to terrace, until we reached the gently descending plain below. On every hand were beautiful homes like fairy cottages, so neat were they in execution and design, and in such endless variety of cultivated taste. From each home came sweet harmony of voices and enchanting music. I longed to stop and listen, but my companion hurried gently on, and gently drew me with him.

"You have much to hear, and see, and learn," said he, "during the seven revolutions earth will make ere your return, and in due time you will know whence all this joyous music comes; but soon the people will be at rest, and we must hasten on to the central city of this division before the night is too far spent."

To me, the houses were so numerous along our pathway, it seemed that we were already in the suburbs of some

great city: but this remark of my guide excited my curiosity, and I said:

"I do not understand what you mean by the words: 'The central city of this division.' Will you explain?"

"The surface of Mars," he said, "is divided into seven parts nearly equal to each other in extent, in people, in animals, in land and water, and in varieties of productions; and the people of each part vie with each other in beautifying their several homes, and their whole division, and in cultivating themselves to the highest point of excellence and knowledge. In each division are many cities; and in each a central city, where those who most excel in knowledge and in goodness congregate to study for the common good. These central cities are connected with each other by perfect ways, which lead in apparently straight lines over the surface of the planet, and through its mountain ranges, and by conveyances across its bodies of water, such as the inhabitants of earth have never known; but which you shall see, because you obeyed me when I said 'Come.' Do you not see, in the distance before us, the beautiful central city of this division?"

I looked and saw, as if a hundred miles away, on earth, a beautifully rounded hill bathed in a bright but mellow light, along and up the sides of which arose many thousand buildings of perfect and choicest architecture. Upon its apex stood an edifice grander than any of the others, like a temple, pure, chaste, and beautiful in construction and design, and from its top, light radiated in all directions. Its proportions were massive; and yet in such exquisite taste and finish that it destroyed all sense of awe. From its base, streets radiated in six directions on the side I looked, and on one of these we were approaching. The others also seemed to extend to the mountain range upon

the right; and on the left extended to the sea. Great numbers of golden chariots, drawn by winged horses, which sped on wings and feet, seemed half to fly and half to run along the smooth golden pavement. These were filled with gallant, happy men, handsome women, and bright children, whose glad voices rang like delicious music on the ear. Soon all this ceased; for the first quarter of the night was nearly passed, and all had hastened to their homes. We entered the city, and moved up its golden walks toward its great central edifice. I looked up. Its greatness had increased as we drew nearer to it. Its dimensions seemed beyond calculation, and its beauty and grandeur, language can not describe. Its broad base seemed sufficient for a city within itself; and its light-radiating spire, which until now I had supposed a moon, seemed to lift itself above the atmosphere. My companion halted at one of its burnished silver doors.

“Wait here,” he said, “until I enter, and announce you as a stranger friend, and cause preparations for your rest.”

Then he entered the grand building, and I took a seat upon a cushioned chair which stood within the recess. Soon again the great door was opened, and my now loved companion appeared. By his side was a damsel of such beauty and intelligence of look as I had never seen on earth. Who can describe a daughter of Mars? The pen shrinks from the delightful, but impossible task. And yet she was not unlike some of the fair daughters of earth. Petite, yet not small; of good height, yet not tall; her dark-brown hair fell in graceful waves, like a rich mantle, nearly to her feet. From her forehead, pure as alabaster, rays of delicious light shone on all around. Her hazel eyes beamed with delight, and revealed within, a mind sparkling with intelligence. Her cheeks were like damask, fading into white;

and her coral lips revealed teeth perfect in form, and rivaling pearls in whiteness and in purity. Her chin was perfection, and her oval countenance expressed the perfection of good will and repose. Her form was sylphan, and she moved with an indescribable grace. But who can describe the daughters of Mars?

“Their loosened hair falls like mantles down to their anklets, and drapes their fair forms in the perfection of beauty:

“Their eyes are like rubies encased in diamonds, and set beneath bows ready strung for the use of the archer:

“Their breath is like the fragrance of sweet milk, mingled with the perfume of flowers:

“Their teeth are like mother-of-pearl set in borders of damask, and their forms are the envy of angels:

“While their breasts are like two rounded hillocks, which flank the borders of the upper portion of the valley of Delight.”

So sang a son of Mars at one time in my hearing.

The maiden greeted me with a smile, and said: “My father is so occupied he can not come, but he sends me as his messenger, and begs you to accept of rest for to-night in the Temple, where a place has been prepared for you.”

“Come,” said my guide, “and rest in a niche of the temple of the central city of this division of Mars, erected for the instruction of the people in all knowledge of value—whose summit is a knowledge of the ever-living God.”

I entered, my two companions leading the way, to a room on the right, into which I was ushered. The ceiling was high, and the walls were ornamented with paintings exquisite in design and finish. Rich tapestry draped the tall window, and in alcoves, between the paintings, stood sculpture which eclipsed all art I had seen on earth. Furniture

of quaint and rich design, ornamented and inlaid with gold and silver, and precious gems, were arranged around the room; while at one side stood a bed whose garments were of spotless white, and of material softer than eider down. "Here you can rest," my companion said, "until the morning sun; when you can examine the temple and this division of the planet Mars." And saying this, he and the lovely maid withdrew. I threw myself upon the bed, and drank in repose. I thought I slept. It was only perfect repose.





CHAPTER V.

The First Morning on Mars—The Morning Meal at the Residence of their Host—Rich Table Furniture—Their Grateful Acknowledgments to God—The Strangers are Remembered—Manner of Eating—Politeness—Mars mistaken by our Spirit for Heaven—Conversation at the Table—What a Year is with Man—With God—Where God is—What God's Laws are—How God appears to Spiritual Sight—Music.

WHEN I awoke from my night's reverie, my companion stood beside me. The tapestry at the window was drawn each way, and festooned toward its sides. On the opposite side of the room from my bed, stood a tall mirror, from whose golden frame hung drapery of pinken color, festooned, and showing only its lower portion. The morning sun was just gilding the east with rays of scarlet and gold; and the sweet songs of birds, and the prattle of children reached my ears. "Come," said my companion. I arose and followed him across the park which surrounded the temple, and entered a beautiful room in a stately edifice. Soon the maiden whom I saw the night before entered, and with her, her father and mother, followed by many men, women, and children, each bearing golden plates, and censers filled with ambrosial food, with fragrant coffee, matte, milk, and unintoxicating wines. A table of silver stood in the center of the room, on which the viands were placed; and cushioned seats, carved from sweet-scented woods of

the forests, and ornamented with precious gems, were placed for each; for my companion and myself, and for them; men, women, and children. My companion turned to me, and said: "You shall henceforth be permitted to understand and to speak, while here, the language of the children of Mars as if in your native tongue." Then I heard an aged and majestic man say:

"Let all be seated, each in his proper place; and let us all give thanks to Him whose goodness has provided the means for our repast." When all were seated, the old man closed his eyes and said:

"We should be ashamed, our Father, not to thank thee for the gift of life, for our pleasant homes, and for all the good things we enjoy on Mars. Lead us this day according to thy will. Do with us all that may add to thy glory, and make us more and more like thee. Bless the strangers here, to whom we are permitted to extend these hospitalities. Bless them with strength, with knowledge, and with Godlike love, and in all that thou doest, we will acknowledge and glorify thy name."

When he had said this, they all began to eat, and glancing around, I saw that all the men, women, and children were furnished with plates and cups of gold, and with knives and forks of silver. I noticed, also, that each fork had four tines, and that all used their forks to carry food to their mouths, and used their knives only for cutting food. Each had a napkin of pure white for use, and finger-bowls stood near each person's plate; and all things done at the table were with perfect decorum and grace. I was astonished at this in the smaller children; perceiving which, my companion said: "The children of Mars are taught politeness and grace of manner from their earliest infancy, as well as obedience to their elders. No child on Mars could

be found, who would be guilty of rudeness or of boisterous and unbecoming acts; and as you mingle with them, you will perceive that this early discipline, to which all are subjected in kindness and love, causes all their countenances to radiate a heavenly joy."

Then I noticed that each child's face, as well as the faces of the older ones, appeared the abode of happiness, content, and joy; and being misled by these appearances, I asked my companion, "Is this heaven?"

"Oh, no," he answered, "it is not heaven, and yet it is heaven-like; for heaven is where perfect peace of mind, and content, and happiness prevail, whether in heaven itself, on Mars, or on the earth, or on any other planet in immensity; but the heaven of which you speak is where God himself presides at the table, and feeds the millions of his loved ones from his exhaustless stores."

Now when my companion ceased speaking, the old man began to ask questions of all at the table, beginning first with the older, and going down to the younger on one side of the table, and thence up on the other side, in regular rotation; and these are some of the questions asked and answers given, as I remember them:

"Who made you?"

"God, who made all things."

"Why do you say, 'God made all things?'"

"Because God made the materials out of which all things are made, whatever may be their character or form."

"Does God make all things directly?"

"No, sir. God uses means to accomplish all his ends, and he causes all the material things he forms to be governed by laws which he himself has made; and by his own laws he governs the universe of the several universes."

"Did God make Mars?"

"Yes, sir."

"When did he make it?"

"In the beginning."

"When was the beginning?"

"Many millions of years ago."

"What is a year?"

"A year is an indefinite part of eternity, and is measured by the time it takes a planet to move from one point in the heavens around in its orbit to the same point in the heavens again."

"Is there any difference in the length of a year on Mars, and a year on Earth?"

"Yes, sir. A year on Mars is nearly twice as long as a year on the earth; and a year on no planet in all God's universe has the same length of time as a year on any other planet."

"What is a year with God?"

"God has no years; for his residence and throne adorn the great central world in space, around which all the systems of worlds which make the great universe revolve, as the common center of them all."

"What are night and day with God?"

"God has no night, for in his presence all is light; but a day with him is that part of eternity which is required to bring all the universes, or systems of worlds, around to the same point in immeasurable space, with reference to a given point in his own particular universe, at which point, or world, he makes his home, and governs the other universes therefrom."

"Is not God, then, everywhere?"

"Yes, God is everywhere by his works, and through his laws; but not in actual presence, for his actual presence

is on the central globe of all the universes which make *his* universe."

"You say that God is everywhere, through his laws and by his works. What are God's laws?"

"God's laws are those rules of action, or of condition, which different things possess through what we call their nature, but which owe their apparent attributes to God's unchanging will."

"How will you explain this?"

"It is God's law that, unless prevented by some other of his laws, all things shall move toward a common center; as when I throw my ball in the air it shall come toward Mars again; that rocks, and gold, and iron, and other matter shall retain their form until changed by some force; and yet these, in their every change of form, follow some law of God. He formed me through a law which he made when he formed the original ancestors of my race, and if I violate any law which he has made for my government, and for the continuance of my existence, by his law, I suffer a fixed penalty therefor."

"How does God appear?"

It was my turn to answer this, for the questions had gone nearly around the table, and the mere child which sat next me had answered the last question, and I felt ashamed that I could not answer as intelligently as the child; but I said: "We have a book on Earth, which we call God's Word, which says God made man in his own image. I suppose, therefore, that God appears as a man."

Then my companion said, "Yes; God appears as a perfect man. Yet only one perfect man ever lived on the earth from which you came."

Then the old man asked:

"What attributes has God?"

"Omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence are his chief attributes, of which his omnipresence has been properly explained by the children."

"How does God know all things?"

"Through the laws which he has made, and which, when violated, vibrate to his throne, and are recorded there."

"How is his omnipotence shown?"

"In the planets and the several universes of planets which he has made, and which, with the perfect balance of his will, he whirls through boundless space without conflict and with ease; and yet finds leisure to make other worlds, and more intelligent peoples."

"Have you ever seen God?"

"I see him in all his works."

"But have you seen him in his person?"

"Yes, I have seen him in person, but indirectly."

"How did you see him?"

"I saw him through the telescope, at the top of the temple; yet dimly, for the distance of his home from Mars is great."

"Where was he?"

"On his central planet, surrounded by myriads of people, who were rejoicing in his presence, and delighting in his goodness, his mercy, and beneficence."

"You mentioned the temple. Are there other temples than this on Mars?"

"Yes, sir; there is one great temple in each of its seven divisions, and a smaller one on each two miles square of its inhabited surface."

"For what purpose were these temples built?"

"The smaller ones were erected for the instruction of all the children of Mars, in all valuable departments of knowledge, and to prepare the more apt and deserving ones to

enter into the greater temples, where they endeavor to perfect themselves in all the higher branches of science, and in a knowledge of God and his works."

Thus the conversation ran; and thus, from the lips of the children and youths of the inhabitants of Mars, I gathered thoughts I had not known before. Thus I began, in the fifty-seventh year of my life, as time is measured on earth, to learn wisdom.

The meal was finished, all were refreshed. Then all arose and sang a sweet song in rich melody, such as I had never heard on earth. I hear it still, and the memory of it will linger around me like fragrant incense, until the glad day when I pass again, and forever, into the spirit land.





CHAPTER VI.

The Temple—The Lights—To Whom the Temple is dedicated—Its Objects—They Walk around It—Its Surroundings—The Parks—The Size of the City and Temple—The Beauty of the Paradise around the Temple—The Magnificence of the Temple—Its Seven Stories—Its Great Auditorium and Central Fountain—The great School-room—Its Furniture—The Branches of Learning Taught—Manner of Teaching.

THE music ceased. The older and the young bowed gracefully to my companion and to me, and my companion said: "Come now, and I will show you the temple, the city, and this division of the planet."

I followed him, and, turning to the left, we passed out through the door by which we had entered, and stood facing the temple and the park which surrounded it. It was a vision of magnificence and beauty, which no words can describe. We had entered the city at night, guided by lights, which I thought were moons; and the vision of sublimity, grandeur, and beauty, which now burst upon me, showed me why my guide had led me to the temple in the night-time. He knew that without repose and proper preparation for the sight, the sudden revelation of the dazzling grandeur of the place would overwhelm me with the greatness of its conception; and through his generous wisdom I had been led at night, and in the morning, at the table, to the contemplation of great thoughts.

The park around the temple was divided, by broad passageways to the several entrances of the temple, into several smaller parks, each perfect in its appointments, as may be hereafter seen. My guide led me to a point close by an open way, marked by a seat of garnet cushioned with crimson, green, and gold, about one hundred feet, as men measure on the earth, from the east entrance to the temple, and facing westward told me to look upward. I looked, and saw in letters carved out of diamonds many feet in size, and far above the mighty door, these words:

“TO THE EVER-LIVING GOD:

“BEFORE WHOM ALL WORTHY INTELLIGENCES ARE EQUAL,
AND—

“TO THE PROMOTION OF ALL USEFUL KNOWLEDGE AMONG
THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF MARS—

“THIS TEMPLE IS DEDICATED—

“ON THE ONE MILLIONTH YEAR OF MARS.”

And thus had I, one of the weakest of God's creatures there, been honored with rest in a niche of a temple dedicated by the children of Mars to Him who made and rules the universes, and to the noblest pursuits his intelligences can pursue or attain. After this, my guide said:

“Come, walk with me about the temple.”

And I walked with him, and I saw that the temple had twelve sides, and that each of its sides was equal to the other; and I saw that on each of its twelve sides were broad ways like roads, leading in twelve directions through the park which surrounded the temple, and through the city round about, and through the country surrounding, until they were lost to view in the mountain ranges, or terminated at the sea; and I saw that all the ways were paved with solid gold. Next to these ways, and proceeding from the base of the temple, ran large streams of pure water in

open ducts; but these extended only to the foot of the vast mound on which the city and temple stood, and there met others from the distant mountains, where all were gathered in a greater golden channel, and thence moved onward to the sea. On the outer side of these ducts, and on each side of the broad ways, were broad walks of gold with borders of silver, over which a busy multitude of people with bright and cheerful faces, were constantly passing to and fro. On each side of the walks through the park, the city, and the country beyond, were beds of flowers of crimson, purple, pink, blue, yellow, and other colors, and trees of great beauty, whose fragrance seemed to cheer all who came within their influence. Now I saw that what appeared to me as a perfect plain by the light of what I thought were two moons, was diversified by gentle hills and vales, all of which were in careful cultivation and thickly dotted with neat habitations and buildings, and ornamented with parks.

At length we reached the eastern portal again, and my guide said to a man there who had a chain in his hand:

“Will you measure this mound, on which the city and temple stand, at its base?”

And the man said: “I will.” And he measured the mound around its base; and we walked again around the temple as he measured it; and its circumference was seven leagues, as men on earth measure distances; and we saw him down each street as he measured it around.

Then I asked the man: “How high is the base of the temple, above the base of the mound?” And he said: “One thousand feet,” as men measure on the earth.

Now near the temple is a broad walk seventy feet in width around it; and at a distance from the temple, and around the park which surrounds the temple, is a street one hundred feet in width, whose sides are parallel with the

sides of the temple; and beyond this are other streets even down to the foot of the mound. On the outer side of the first street, and on each side of the other streets, are beautiful edifices, built of a great variety of precious stones, and their roofs are covered with beaten gold, each roof by one sheet; and the streets leading from the temple are one hundred feet wide, and the other streets are seventy feet wide; and I afterwards saw that the courts formed by the edifices along the sides of the streets, are adorned with ornamental and fruit-bearing trees, and vines, delightful walks, grasses, and lawns, and beds, and borders of flowers, and with play-grounds for children.

But concerning the temple: My guide said to the man:

“Now measure the distance from the temple to the farther side of the street, first around it.”

And he measured the distance, and it was seven hundred feet, as men on earth measure distance. Then said my guide to the man:

“Measure now the diameter of the temple at its base, from the east portal to the west, and from its north portal to the south.”

And he measured them, and the diameter of the temple, at its base, was seven hundred feet, in every direction.

Now I saw that the parks which surrounded the temple, were tastefully laid out with winding walks, bordered with beds of violets, dahlias, pansies, daisies, pinks, bergamot, heliotropes, petunias, and flowers of every hue and delicious smell; and that ornamental trees and shrubs were scattered in tasteful profusion through the grounds; while in each park generous water-founts played continuously; and I noticed, too, that the ground beneath the long branches of the shading trees, and between the playing fountains and the beds of flowers, was covered with a short,

silken, tough, and curling grass, like an enduring and soft carpet of ever-living green, which yielded quickly to the feet of the many little children, youths, and persons of mature years, who laughed and played, or who sat quietly thinking in the park, as if they were at home.

Now on the earth, I thought, so great a space as this, right in the center of a city, would not be permitted to be left unoccupied by stately buildings; but in this city, here on Mars, right in the center of the place, are roses of every hue, damask, red, white, and cloth of gold, petunias, myrtles, oleanders, dahlias, jessamines, and other flowers; and pretty trees and grass, which, though nice and proper in their places, as man on earth would seem to think, are here a waste of precious ground, which might be better used for trade. And so I asked the man:

"Why was so much waste of ground made around the temple?" He smiled at first, then looked a little sad, and said:

"We do not think this paradise around the temple is a waste of ground, although it be right at the city's center; and were it less, we could not see the beauty of the temple, which was erected by our fathers many thousands of Mars years ago. Even with this wide area we gain but an imperfect view, even from the farthest side of yonder street; for at that distance its noble battlements still hide great portions of its beauty. Besides, the paradise affords fine space for children at their quiet plays, and quiet rest for weary, aged limbs, and adds greatly to the city's healthfulness; and furnishes a grateful place of joy for all the people. And beside all this, there is plenty of room yet left on Mars."

"Mars is hardly half as large as the earth," I said.

"And yet its years are almost twice as long," said he.

I began to feel a little angry; but at this time my guide, who had witnessed my reverie, and had listened to my question and to the man's answer, led me down to the opposite side of the first street, surrounding the temple, and said to me:

“Look now at the temple from this point.”

I looked up, and the temple appeared to me to be greater than before; and my conception of its greatness grew upon me. The building had seven stories, one above the other, and each story was one hundred feet in height. Its windows were seventy feet in height, and those in the lower story were thirty feet in width. Each window was a single diamond, transparent as pure air, without flaw or color, and ground to one foot in thickness; yet it appeared like thin glass. At each angle of every story were set pillars, surmounted with curiously wrought chapiters; some wrought in pure gold, with lilies of silver, and leaves of emerald, and some ornamented with flowers wrought out of rubies, amethysts, garnets, and other precious stones. The diameter of the pillars of the lower story was one seventh of the height of the pillars, and they appeared massive; but in just proportion to the height and to the greatness of the building. The walls of the lower story were of iron, seven feet in thickness, and overlaid with nickel; and their tops were ornamented with cornices of gold, inlaid with diamonds, rubies, and amethysts, and other precious stones of great value; and its pillars were of gold.

Then my guide took me again within the temple a distance of two hundred feet, and said to me, “Look now, on all sides.”

And I looked on all sides around me, and saw like pillars and walls as those on the outside of the temple. The walls were overlaid with silver, and the pillars and their chapiters

and the cornices of the walls were ornamented with gold and with precious stones in crimson, green, scarlet, and purple, and in flowers of greatest delicacy of workmanship, and beauty of design, and finish. The inner part of the temple had twelve sides, corresponding to the twelve outer sides of the temple; and at its center was a fountain of pure water, which rose upward in one column to the height of three hundred feet; and fell again, in large and smaller drops, into the basin which surrounded the fountain. Over the fountain was a cylinder, slightly conic, open at its base and closed at its top, cut from a single diamond, perfectly transparent, and of one foot in thickness on every side; and of a height of three hundred and thirty feet, and of a diameter of thirty and three feet. From its base, through outlets in the basin of gold in which it stood, ran the twelve streams of water which I had seen on the outside of the temple, and which were there divided and ran on each side of the twelve ways from the temple down to the base of the city. Then I asked my guide:

“Whence comes this vast fountain of pure water?”

And he said:

“From the streams of the mountains, below the snows, which we saw last night as we descended. The waters are conducted through pipes of gold, laid under the surface of the planet, to all parts of the valley over which we came, and to the hill-tops; and the pipes terminate within the base of the temple, and here the waters are forced upward by the gravity of the waters in the mountains; for their heads are much higher than the base of the temple. From this and other things you have seen you discern the energies, and wisdom, and genius of the people of Mars.”

I was amazed, and said not a word. Then my guide said:

“ Look up.”

And I looked up and saw, above the first story, six other stories of the temple; and each succeeding story above was smaller than the story on which it stood, and was supported by pillars and walls which stood on the story beneath it. The tops of the pillars were like branches of trees, very great, and the pillars and walls were ornamented with precious metals of gold and silver, enameled with crimson and scarlet, and purple and green. The upper story was a diamond, hollowed out as a cup, without blemish, and prepared with twelve faces within, corresponding to its twelve faces without. Its top was horizontal, and two hundred feet in diameter in the clear, inside, and three feet in thickness from its lower to its upper surface; yet it is perfectly transparent and yields a delicious light, most agreeable to the sight and less dazzling than the sun, whose rays it transmits.

Now, I saw that the vast court within the temple was used as a school-room, and that many thousand bright youths, and eager little people, of both sexes, were explaining to their teachers the principles of grammar, arithmetic, and the geography of the planet; while the older ones were explaining the main features of philosophy, rhetoric, geometry, music, and astronomy. Their descriptions of the features of their own planet, of the earth, and of many other planets, were vivid and interesting. The school was divided into twelve departments, and each department had six teachers; yet no confusion prevailed therein. The floor of the departments was carpeted, and the seats for the children were softly cushioned, in colors of crimson, damask, green, and gold. In some departments the youths and the little children drew diagrams and curious designs upon boards placed near the walls of the temple, with great quick-

ness and skill; and then they explained the diagrams and designs to their teachers, as if they were the teachers themselves, and not the pupils.

Upon the walls of the court, where no windows were, and upon the arches, seven universes of suns and their attendant planets were represented, together with one sun greater than all the rest around which the seven universes of suns and planets seemed to revolve, as around a common center. At one side of the court, upon a raised platform, stood a vast organ, which, I was told, had two thousand and four hundred reeds, and one hundred and forty-four stops, in number; and twelve musicians were required to elicit all its melodies. But I was most interested in the wonderful proficiency of the children before me, and was astonished that they could accomplish what I witnessed.

I turned to my guide and asked, "What does all this mean?" He answered:

"The manner of teaching on Mars, differs much from that prevailing in most schools on earth; for there, few teachers seem to know how best to teach; nor will they learn, for they teach from books alone, and force the little ones to learn by rote, matters which to them are void of meaning; but here on Mars the teachers first explain to the young minds of pupils, in choice, and often playful, words, what afterwards the little ones find in their books; and then the children explain to their teachers, what they have heard and seen, and thus have learned, with eagerness and avidity. Just look around and you will see that none of the teachers in the court use books; for they are familiar with the contents of them all; and ask such questions as occur to them as appropriate to the capacities of the children in their several classes."

Then I looked with care and saw that none of the teachers

held books, but the children had books alone, to aid their memories, and I knew what my companion said was true; but I answered him and said:

“Still there are many teachers on the earth who have the ‘knack’ to teach.”

“Yes,” answered he, “but come now, and see the second story of the temple, on the outer side.”





CHAPTER VII.

The Second Story—Its Height, its Pillars and Cornices—The Material of the Seven Stories, etc.—The Telescope—Our Spirit Looks through it—Is Overcome with Emotion at What he Sees—Assurance given him—He Looks Again.

WE went into an alcove, deep in the wall, and here he touched a rod. We arose, aided by an unseen power, to the base of the second story, and found ourselves upon its outer side. The cause of our upward motion was all a mystery to me, and I asked my guide, "By what power were we raised?" "By the power of living water upon a little wheel within the basement of the temple;" and I felt that it was so. Now my guide led me around the second story of the temple, upon the top of the first story; and I saw that the top of the lower story was the base of the second story, and that the second story was of gold, one hundred feet in height, with pillars at its twelve corners and its cornices of silver, ornamented with many curious devices, and raised figures of animals and birds of all kinds, and with raised figures of angels and women, and of children and men. The twelve great rooms of the second story corresponded with twelve great rooms in the lower story, and extended from the outer walls of the temple to the court within the temple; and the walls of the rooms

were filled with representations of the surface of the planet, and with representations of the heavens; with diagrams of great variety; with geometrical and astronomical calculations, and with maps of the seven divisions of Mars, and of the earth with its moon, and of the other planets of our system, and their attendant satellites, all in marvelous perfection of execution. And I saw that the windows of the twelve greater rooms of the six lower stories of the temple were plates of pure diamond, each narrower than the window of the story next beneath, yet of the same height, and in just proportion to the altitude of the windows; and that the upper story of the seven stories of the temple was of pure diamond. And I saw that like proportion as in rooms also prevailed in each story of the temple, one above the other, even to and including the top of its upper story. The diameter of the second story was fifty feet less than the diameter of the first story, and the diameter of each succeeding upward story is fifty feet less than the diameter of the story on which it stands; and the outer diameter of the upper story is four hundred feet from the outer side to the opposite outer side thereof. The third story is of silver, and its twelve pillars, at the twelve corners thereof, and the cornices are of emerald. The fourth story is of emerald, and its pillars and cornices are rubies, pure and without blemish. The fifth story of the temple is of ruby, and its corner pillars and its cornices are opal. The sixth story is of opal, and its twelve pillars and its cornices are of diamond. The seventh story is of pure diamond, and the surface of all the sides of the temple are polished in great perfection. I wondered at the richness, perfection, and finish of the temple in all its parts, and while I wondered and was oppressed with the finish and greatness and

magnificence of the building, and being almost overcome with the sight, my guide said: "Come with me."

We again went into an alcove, and he touched a rod, and we ascended six hundred feet to the top of the temple, whence I saw, on all sides thereof, the greater portion, as I thought, of that division of the planet, in one sublime and almost boundless view.

But an object nearer than the city and the country round about the temple now riveted my attention. On the top of the seventh story was a telescope, mounted upon a mighty frame-work of gold, alloyed with silver, and so set as to command a view, not of the heavens alone, but of a large portion of Mars' surface between the city and the mountains in the distance. Its tube was also an alloy of gold and silver, very massive; and its object-glass, a pure diamond, was one hundred feet in its long diameter. The tube measured one hundred and twelve feet in diameter in its greater part, and yet its length, when most extended, was but three hundred and seventy feet. The instrument was so set upon a socket joint, and controlled by machinery so perfect in its make and power, that a child could so elevate or depress the tube as to command a view of any star in the heavens, not hid by Mars itself, and any part of Mars within vision of its eye-glass. Twelve women and twelve men attend upon the instrument night and day, and watch all stellar changes in the heavens, and, when desired, direct it for the multitude of youths, women, and men who throng up the alcove, and ask to witness its grand revelations.

My guide looked in, and at once a glorious light radiated from his face. "Look, look!" said he, and climbing down from his perch, I upward went and took his place; and looking in, I saw a world more glorious than the sun at high meridian; and I saw a throne of dazzling white. and

caught a glimpse of Him who sat thereon, whose mighty will controls all universes and smaller things in boundless space. And I was afraid, and fell there in my elevated seat, fainting with great emotion. But recovering soon, I heard these words: "Fear not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God." Then I gained strength again, and put my hand before my face, and looked between my fingers through the telescope, and saw the great Undiscoverable Being, who discovered himself alone; whose majesty is terrible in its greatness, and whose beauty none can describe; and yet I saw that men on Earth, and men on Mars, are made in his image and likeness; and I was overcome with seeing this majestic sight.

Now the night was far advanced when all these things were accomplished; and I was greatly exhausted with the many new thoughts which had been pressed on my mind, and with the many new things I had heard and seen; and when my guide saw that I was overwhelmed with great emotions, he said to me: "Come now, for you need repose, for you have much to see on the morrow, and have to learn whence all the materials for building this temple were brought."

Then I gladly followed him, and he took me down the alcove, even to the basement of the temple, and thence through the park, and across the street, to the house of our host, who was the father of the beautiful maiden who had received us the night before; where he led me to a room gorgeously furnished and prepared, and bade me rest there.

I threw myself upon the downy bed and thought I slept. It was only dreamy forgetfulness, and delicious repose.



CHAPTER VIII.

Table-talk—The First Duty of Children on Mars—Why the People of Mars are Good People—How they show Gratitude—The Temple alluded to—The Number of its greater Rooms—How its Attendants are Chosen, and why—Men can Show Gratitude to God better by doing Acts of Kindness than by Long Prayers—Whom God loves most—The Father Encourages His Children—Scientific Discoveries made on Mars.

BEFORE the sun's rays gilded the diamond pinnacle of the temple, my guide appeared, and with kind greeting invited me to follow him. I immediately arose and followed to another room from that in which we breakfasted before; where were assembled many children, youths, and maidens, and persons of mature age, ready to be seated at a table, which was profusely laden with fruits, vegetables, fish, and meats, from which aromas came more delicious in their fragrance than I had ever known before. Soon as we entered, and were greeted with words of kindness and good cheer, we were directed to seats near the center of the table, opposite to a gray-haired man, who, I perceived, was patriarch of the family, and he director of the movements of the telescope I had seen the day before, upon the temple's summit. As soon as all were seated, the old man said:

“Our Father, we would not be less grateful to thee for life, and for the good things we enjoy, than are the inferior

animals that thou hast made, and given to us for our aid and sustenance. We thank thee for the bountiful supplies that we receive from day to day. Help us to-day, and at all other times, to do to others, even to strangers, as we wish others to do to us; help us to make this the rule of action of our lives, until we pass from this into that perfect, spiritual life, which can have no end; and thine shall be the glory throughout unceasing ages."

When he had said this, and all began to eat, I noticed that all seemed watchful of the wants of others at the table, and anticipated their desires. I noticed, too, that perfect decorum attended all that was said and done, much as is seen at the tables of the most refined and cultivated on the earth. When the meal had somewhat progressed, the old man asked one of the children at the table:

"Can you tell me what is the first duty of the children on Mars?"

"Their first duty is to recognize God as their Father, and as the author of all good."

"Do not the people of Mars do much good?"

"They do; because they act in accordance with the will of God, and do to each other as they wish others to do to them."

"If the people of Mars do good, why do you say that God is the author of all good?"

"Because God created the people of Mars, and implanted in them a desire to do good, which desire they obey according to God's will."

"Why was the great temple of this division erected?"

"As an evidence of the gratitude of the people to God, for his goodness in supplying them so bountifully with the means of providing all things they can enjoy; and for the purpose of instructing themselves in many of the intricacies

and beauties of his law, in order that they may be prepared, as children here, to enter more readily upon a complete understanding of his laws, when they become perfectly free in the spirit-land."

"Of how many apartments does the temple consist?"

"Of eighty-five greater apartments, including the great court of the temple, besides many smaller rooms, for the accommodation of worthy strangers, and for those who are set apart to keep the temple in order, and to superintend its various departments."

"How are those chosen who keep the temple in order, and those who superintend its various departments?"

"By the people of each hamlet and city of the division; the first, on account of their aptitude for order and cleanliness; and the second, on account of their proficiency in learning; their knowledge of God's laws; the clearness of their explanations in different branches of learning; and their aptness in teaching others."

"You say, 'Their knowledge of God.' How do they show their knowledge of him?"

"By reverencing his name; by studying his laws, and rejoicing in new discoveries of them; by examining the works of his hands and seeing the artificer in his works; by making beautiful and pleasant homes, such as God himself would delight in; by separating matter into its original elements, and by uniting such simple elements into compounds again, as God himself combined them; and thus imitating, but in an inferior way, the works of our Father. Besides all this, they show it by being pure in all their thoughts, and words, and actions; by never speaking and never thinking evil of others; by preferring one another, and by doing to others as they wish others to do to them."

"The question is well answered, my son, and the next

may answer. Is that a better way of showing reverence for God than making long prayers in public places; singing praises, and offering adoration to him?"

"It is; for God loves them most who learn most about him, and who imitate his ways most; he desires the praise of the spirit, and not the praise of the lips alone; he desires the adoration of the heart, and cares nothing for words which come from the mouth alone, nor for the genuflections of the body."

"Well said, my little daughter, and now the next may tell me, have any discoveries of God's laws been made by the people of Mars?"

"Yes, sir, very many."

"Can you refer me to any?"

"Yes, sir. In the early days of Mars it was not known why water ran down the sides of the mountains, and thence to the seas; why fruit fell from the trees to the ground, and similar things, but now it is known that God has an established and unvarying law, which causes all matter upon or near the surface of a planet to seek a point as near to the center of the planet as it can attain; to move toward the planet, and to combine with it; and water being free to move, runs as near to the center of the planet as it can; while unsupported objects above its surface, and within its influence, obey this law of God, and come down to its surface."

"Well answered, my child. I see that you are not attending school for naught; and now, the next may tell me, how long has this law of God been known?"

"Ninety-one thousand of Mars' years, and a little more."

"How is this known?"

"By records kept in the central city of the seven central cities of the divisions of Mars."

“Can you refer me to any other discoveries of God’s laws made by the children of Mars?”

“Yes, sir, many. One is that the revolution of the planet upon its axis from west to east produces a constant current of electric fluid in a direction at right angles with its motion; which current, when acting upon a needle of hardened iron, causes it to point toward the poles of the planet; while the same fluid, when collected and passed through an imperfect conductor, but which it is capable of acting upon, produces a light, similar to the light of the sun. This effect is often shown in the seventh story of the temple, it being of diamonds; and in the diamond lamps within and without at the twelve corners of the temple; and, also, in the various tunnels through the mountains and in the mines, by connecting small wires, attached to machines which set the fluid in motion, with the diamond lamps, which cause them to serve as brilliant lights.”

“How long has this law been known on Mars?”

“The records show seventy thousand years.”

“What are the great reservoirs of this fluid?”

It was my turn to answer now, for the last answer had been given by the child sitting next me; but as I had never been instructed in such matters, and had thought but little about them, I felt great embarrassment in answering; but to answer something seemed imperative, and thinking of the sun, I said:

“We have not progressed quite so far on earth as to know these things; but I think the sun must be one of the great reservoirs of the fluid; yet I speak hesitatingly, for it is only a few years since, when men on earth knew why an apple fell to the earth (they call it gravitation there), and it is less years still that men on earth knew anything about this

fluid of which you speak, except when they saw its effects in storms, and called it 'lightning.'"

My answer was accepted, and the questions still went on.

"What is the extent of this fluid?"

My companion answered this, and I was a little proud.

"It extends from the dial plate of eternity, upon which the throne of God our Father stands, to the most extreme planet and matter which he has formed and sustains in space; and through its exquisite sensitiveness and faithfulness to his will, it conveys to and records upon that dial every act of the greatest and of the least thing which God has created: but more particularly the acts and the thoughts of his intelligent beings whom he created in his image."

"Are there other reservoirs of this fluid than the sun?"

"Yes, sir. God's glorious chariots, which are called 'comets,' and all the planets and suns, are greater or less reservoirs of it; but Sirius is the greatest of them all, except the great central world of all the universes, where God has fixed his eternal home."

"How is this known?"

"God has given to many spirits power to understand his works and ways; and he has also given to them the power of communicating with the wise and pure ones on Mars, and perhaps on other planets, such portions of that knowledge as they can make their mediums comprehend; and these things are known by means of such agencies."

"Who are those spirits?"

"They are those who, when in flesh, were the most highly cultivated in heart and intellect, on any planet; those who then cultivated a knowledge of God's works to the utmost of their power; those who had done to their fellows as they desired others to do to them; those who, from their abundance, had ministered to the distressed and weak, and to

those who needed aid, and who, when they threw off the material development of their existence, and were clothed with immortality, were rewarded by God with the power of communicating through other forms, and sometimes through visions and dreams, with those whom they loved while in the flesh, and whom they still love, though in the spirit."

"How do disembodied spirits communicate with persons in the flesh?"

"By taking control of the spirit of the person in the flesh; but they can not communicate with all persons, or through them; for some spirits in the flesh are so closely combined with, and absorbed by the flesh, as to become wholly sensual, and incapable of being approached by, or of understanding, the loving influences of their friends from the spirit world; and thus they reject all their admonitions and desires."

In manner like the foregoing the questions and answers ran on, until, the meal being finished, all arose, and, standing around the table, sang another sweet song, which resounded from the lofty ceiling, walls, and floor of the room, like the music of birds, mingled with the perfect organ's notes and the falling of many waters.





CHAPTER IX.

Our Spirit asks his Companion a Question about Catechisms and Explains—The School-rooms in the Temple—The Furniture—How the Geography of Mars is Taught—A Globe with Raised Figures, Maps, etc.—The Teacher explains to our Spirit—The Children explain to the Teachers—Arithmetic—Grammar of the Language Spoken on Mars—Chemistry and Experiments.

AFTER the singing was finished my companion bade me follow him, and when we were by ourselves I asked him:

“Do the people of Mars have catechisms, like some of the churches on earth, from which they teach the children?”

“No,” he answered; “but they talk of these things as a pastime, and the answers given are impromptu responses from their enlightened minds; for the children of Mars have been investigating these matters, and many other of the great mysteries of God, for many thousands of their years. But why do you ask?”

“Because,” I said, “I was raised in the church, and every Sunday night the children were required to answer questions in the Shorter Catechism, or the Assembly Catechism, or some other catechism, and the questions at the table on this, and yesterday morning, remind me of those exercises; but these are very different from them, and much more interesting, and, perhaps, more useful.”

My companion smiled at this, and then said:

"Yes, the children of Mars are further advanced in a proper knowledge of God, and of his laws and his works, than are the children of earth; and, therefore, they take a greater delight in his works, his laws, and his love. But we have not time to speak of this now, for you have to see more of the temple, its various apartments, and the country around."

And, so saying, he led me to the temple and into one of the larger rooms in its lower story.

Up to this time my glances through the diamond windows into the rooms had been superficial, and without particular thought; but I now saw that opposite to the outer doors were corresponding doors leading into the court, but these were of such perfect workmanship that they seemed not to be doors, but ornamental panels of the room; while on each side of the room were smaller doors, like ornamental panels, leading into smaller apartments on each side of the greater room. The greater rooms were each one hundred feet square in every story of the building, and their arched ceilings were nearly one hundred feet in height, and were each provided with movable and highly embellished cushioned seats, all facing toward a raised and slightly inclining platform at one side of the room. Light was freely admitted through the large diamond windows opening outward toward the park, and through smaller lofty windows above the doors leading into the court. The platform was half an oval, and twenty feet in width, from the wall to its front, in its broadest place; and was elevated eighteen inches above the floor, and ascended by three steps. On both floor and platform soft carpets of rich design and enduring texture were laid, and on the platform of the room which we first entered, stood a globe many feet in diameter,

mounted on a pedestal in such a manner as to show the annual and diurnal motions of the planet. Its surface showed, by elevations and depressions, the mountains, hills, and valleys of the planet, and also its seas, rivers, numerous lakes, and all other natural features of Mars, as well as outlines of its seven divisions; the location of the central city and temple of each division, and of the central city and temple of the seven divisions; all by actual models, elevations, and depressions. The seas, rivers, lakes, and even smaller streams, were shown by diamonds inlaid in its surface; its wooded parts were shown by emeralds; its snows on mountain ranges, and its colder zones, by opals; and its mountain peaks by colored stones harder than adamant.

Many other prominent and natural features of the planet, and features stamped on Mars by its cultivated people, were depicted on the globe; such as miniature groves of trees upon its mountain sides and in its valleys, cultivated fields in different cereals and fruits, pertaining to its differing climates and soils, large cities and villages, and even cottages in some favored spots, and many other things. The little world revolved just in proportion as Mars itself revolves; and yet so slowly that the eyes of all can see each part of its surface at each revolution. Its motions are regulated by machinery, and can be made slower or faster, or stopped entirely, as may be desired. On the opposite wall of the room were hung large maps of each division of the planet, and on each side of the platform was hung a large circular map, of a diameter of fifty feet, on which were delineated the features of the seven maps and of one half of the globe which stood upon the platform, as a miniature Mars. Beside these maps, there were others of cities, villages, and hamlets; and also of the central city and temple of each of the seven divisions; all of which were represented

in miniature likeness by raised figures, as well on the maps as on the globe.

“While we were examining these things, one of the teachers entered; and my guide, speaking to her, said:

“Will you explain to my companion, how the children of Mars are taught the geography of the planet?” and she said, “I will.”

Then she explained to me all I had seen, and said: “We teach the children of Mars all things we can, by actual demonstration and experiment; and things which we can not demonstrate before their eyes, we show them by apt analogies, which they readily comprehend. In teaching them the geography of Mars, we first show them the planet in miniature, and explain it carefully and fully to them, point by point, until they become familiar with its outlines; and then let them explain it to us. Then we show them parts of the planet, as represented on maps, or in drawings; commencing with such parts as are familiar to their senses, and thence proceed to others which they have not seen. For instance, most of the children of this city are familiar with the city and temple; for most of them have been taken to the pinnacle of the temple, and have been permitted to view the city and surrounding country therefrom. The map which hangs there, is a faithful representation, you discover at once, of the temple and city, and a portion of the country beyond. The children also readily recognize it as a miniature of the same temple and city when placed before them; and they soon point out, with great enthusiasm, their homes thereon, and the homes of their fellows; the streets on which they live, and learn the names of all the streets, and parks, and prominent points within the city. From these home maps, as a starting point, we pass beyond, toward the outlines of the division; and then from division

to division, until they become familiar with, and can explain to us, each main feature of every division of the planet; and do explain them to us, as if we were the pupils; and thus they become teachers themselves. As a reward of honor for absolute perfection, in all the branches of learning taught in the temple, the perfect ones are permitted to make a journey over all parts of the planet, without personal expense; and are appointed teachers in the temples if they desire."

Then I asked her if she had been around the planet, and she said, "I have."

Now I wished to remain much longer in the room where this pretty teacher was, for she was very beautiful. but my companion said:

"Let us go, now, into another room."

So I followed him, and we passed into a room where figures representing numbers, and circles, and lines, and diagrams, were drawn upon the walls in great profusion. This room was also provided with neatly cushioned chairs, each of which turned noiselessly upon a pivot, and which, being now filled with girls and boys of nearly equal ages, were turned toward a raised platform on one side of the room. Before each student was a desk, on which lay a slate, similar to those used in schools on earth, but wholly noiseless. Two students were on the platform; while at the opposite side of the handsomely carpeted room, and almost one hundred feet away, stood a teacher who proposed questions of arithmetic of divers kinds, which were written by the two students on large slates at the platform's rear, and by the seated students on their slates. When this was done, all the students began to solve the questions by figures on the slates; and those who first succeeded raised their hands, and their names were publicly recorded

by the students on the platform. When all had signified their success by the uplifted hand, the two upon the platform, also, solved the questions in view of all the other students, and of the teacher; and if any did not agree in the result, the disagreeing ones also went upon the platform, and solved the question there in presence of all the class; and then explained the reason for each step taken. I was greatly interested in all this, but my companion beckoned me to follow him, and we repaired to another room, which too was carpeted, as were all the rooms we entered, and provided with revolving, easy chairs, desks, platforms, and other necessary and convenient things, as had been the former rooms; but in this apartment the desks were provided with many receptacles, in which were many printed and written words of the language spoken on Mars, each in its proper cell. All the students were facing toward the platform, on which a teacher stood, and who asked the pupils to arrange in proper order the words of certain sentences which he repeated; first in printed, and then in written characters, which, having been done by all, the teacher himself arranged the words into the sentences required, in shallow recesses upon the board before them all, whence they all could see if their own arrangements were correct.

Now it might tire many persons, were I to give in detail the full method of teaching the grammar of the language of Mars; but the spirit which controls me impels me to say that on Mars, grammar is taught by putting words into sentences so as to make complete sense; instead of tearing sensible sentences into small pieces, as is often done in schools on the earth. The spirit tells me, too, that I must not weary the readers of this book by relating in detail the interesting methods used on Mars for teaching the principles of natural philosophy, moral and mental philosophy,

rhetoric, logic, geology, music, and physiology, although we saw all these are taught to and are easily understood by the youths on Mars. In obedience, therefore, to the direction of my guide, who on parting with me said, "Write all you have seen and heard on Mars," I further write that all the greater rooms of the temple are devoted to instructing the children of Mars in some special study, science or art; and as what I saw in the rooms devoted to chemistry and to astronomy interested me particularly, I will attempt to describe a portion of the things I saw therein.

The apartment devoted to chemistry was provided in many respects as were the other rooms; with revolving, easy, cushioned chairs, and a raised platform. Upon the platform stood a table of diamond plate, twelve feet in length, six feet in width, and three inches in thickness; which rested upon heavy golden pedestals near its corners, and at its center. Surmounting the center of the table, from end to end, and standing upon smaller pedestals of gold, at its ends, its center, and half way between those points, was a shelf, also of polished diamond, which was twelve feet in length, one and one half feet wide, and one and one half inches in thickness. This shelf was used for holding pipes, tubes, cups, vases, alembics, and other furniture of the laboratory; and was cut through with smooth orifices of different sizes to receive them. Many of the pipes and tubes were of glass, while many others, including the alembics and cups, were of platinum; and others still of diamond, most beautifully cut, and highly polished; and besides, the apparatus named were many other curious vessels made of different materials, as yet unknown on earth; but considered very valuable on Mars.

As my guide and I entered the room, the teacher placed

in one of the cups a quantity of what I saw was gold, and poured upon it a liquid substance, nearly transparent, in the presence of the students. Soon an effervescence took place in the transparent cup, and all could see that the gold was gradually changing its condition in the water, and becoming a liquid itself, and that in doing so it became green in color rather than yellow. When the gold was wholly dissolved, and in a liquid form, he showed it to the students, that they might see that it was so, by pouring the entire contents through a shallow spoon sieve into another cup. He then divided the dissolved gold into two nearly equal parts, and in transparent cups; and into one of the cups he plunged a small rod of about one foot in length, and then placed the cup containing the dissolved gold and the rod in the focus of a brilliant electric lamp, the rays of which were concentrated upon the cup, and in a few moments the gold formed in a metallic state again, and in crystals of many sizes, and adhered to the rod as if a part of it.

Into the other cup he poured a small quantity of another fluid, and immediately the gold fell to the bottom of the cup in a purple brown powder, finer than flour; and in each of the cups the water was left almost transparent, and without a tinge of gold. He then conveyed the powder to a platinum cup, and subjected it to an intense heat, when the atoms of gold united, and were shown to the students in its common and well-known form, a solid mass.

The teacher then took a diamond, of about the size of a hen's egg, and placed it in a darker vessel, which contained a liquid, and added another liquid thereto. The diamond was soon dissolved, and no trace of it remained. He then decanted the fluid containing the dissolved diamond into a transparent cup, and placed it in the focus of the intense electric light—which, when not shaded, dazzled the eyes of

all beholders—for a few moments only; when the atoms of the diamond were recombined, and many smaller diamonds were produced, the combined weight of which equaled the weight of that with which he began the experiment. The teacher then passed a current of electric fluid through the table, but for a moment only; for none could look upon it with greater ease than they could look upon the sun. Many other experiments he gave, in all of which I was deeply interested, but to describe them all might weary some to whom this book may come.





CHAPTER X.

Astronomy—The Hollow Globe containing Seven Universes with their Central Suns, and a greater Central Sun around which the Universes Revolve—Miniatures of the Planets of the Universe to which Mars and Earth belong—When our Spirit will comprehend all.

MY guide led me quickly through each large room of the temple, but in the apartment devoted to astronomy, which is in the seventh or diamond story, we lingered. Here we found suspended a single, hollow, diamond globe, seventy feet in its diameter, perfectly transparent, and with walls, or shell, one foot in thickness. It was provided with a door, also of diamond, cut so as to form part of the globe, and hung on solid silver hinges. Within the globe were represented seven planetary systems, each with its central sun, which sun in every case was much larger than all the planets in its system; and was represented by a diamond without flaw, but of rich yellow tinge. The central sun of all was larger and more brilliant than all the other suns combined. This appeared motionless, and yet it might have moved without motion being seen. The other suns, with their systems, all moved; each around its center, and also in an orbit around the central sun. Comets came near the central sun, and then flew off again to the extreme of the great orb which contained them all, and represented

boundless space. There they remained awhile, and then drew near the central sun again; and then flew to some other part to return again. Around the seven lesser suns, planets, and their attendant stars and moons, revolved, all the greater in like planes, while each also revolved on its own center; but gently weaving, as if swinging there, and thus presented to its central sun the greater portion of its face at each revolution.

In the system to which Mars belonged, and next to its central sun, a little garnet whirled in its level plane; and next outside of this revolved a larger ball, cut from a diamond of slight tinge of blue. Then, in a larger orbit, a polished beryl, very pure, attended by a smaller ball of ashes, iron, and diamond mixed, which swung around the beryl globe, and moved along its orbit with slower pace; and then a polished ruby played, as it wound its course around its distant center. Outside of this came a hundred little diamond fragments, and many more; among them four larger than the rest, most of which seemed to have been scattered and forgotten; and yet, obedient to their maker's will, were hurrying on around their central sun. Then came a diamond, bright and large, around which four smaller played; and all, together, slowly moved around the central sun; and yet further still, and slower too, a large diamond, in color of pale straw, set within two broad rings of myriads of little opal balls, and surrounded by eight little diamonds, representing moons quite different in size, and moving with velocities different, swung slowly round its ponderous orbit. Then came a cloudy diamond globe, with six diamond attendants, representing moons; and beyond a smaller globe by far, than this, with three attendants; while in the far extreme a globe, yet smaller still, and yet greater

than the beryl, which represented earth, attended by a single little moon, which revolved around its central planet, and with its planet, slowly moved around all the other orbits and the central sun of the grand system; yet not more grand than many other systems that I saw represented in that hollow sphere.

Now all these planets and their attendant moons, and those which had no moons, together with the central sun of each system, and the central sun of all the systems, were moved in perfect order, and in time proportioned to the time required for each to perform the complete circle of its orbit; were moved by concealed machinery, so deftly and perfectly contrived, as to baffle my most thorough efforts to discover the source, or any part of the machine. And yet I knew that each piece moved with perfect regularity, but in different time; and knowing that, I readily believed, as I was told, that the machinery which moved them all was concealed in the great central diamond ball which represented the central sun of all the seven universes represented there; for I saw that this last recorded on its surface the time when each had completed a revolution of its orbit, which marked the planet's year.

When my guide had led me out of the sphere which contained the seven miniature systems of planets and their central suns, and the great central sun of all the systems, I asked him: "Why were all these things encased in a globe, instead of being set up in this large square room?"

He answered: "To convey to the minds of the students a faint idea of the immensity of space; and also the relation of the planets to each other; for as they see that space extends beyond the outlines of the sphere, they can, by comparison, more readily understand that, when they have

seen the farthest point in space which they can reach by vision, they have but just begun to fathom its immensity. The seven systems of worlds shown within the sphere represent all the planetary systems which can be wholly deciphered through the telescope at the top of the temple, while the globe itself, with its pictured stars within, represents only the utmost extremes of space which can be seen through the telescope, and yet by no means are all the stars in sight pictured therein. Therefore, as the pupil sees that outside of the globe space still exists beyond, he is taught that space extends infinitely beyond the bounds which he can discover by the aid of the telescope, and that as these bounds are greater than the seventy-foot sphere, so much greater is space than his greatest conception of it."

Then I said: "The thought is too great for me; please speak to me of smaller things."

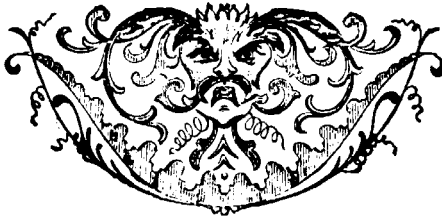
Then he took me into the other rooms of the seventh story of the temple, in each of which were many people making diagrams, and drawing figures, lines, and angles without number; and explaining one to the other how they ascertained the distance of a certain planet from Mars; others, how they calculated the distance of the sun, Sirius, from the sun of our system at a certain time; and other calculations and predictions concerning planets in other systems, so that I was overwhelmed with thought, and with my own ignorance of these things; and I asked my companion to take me to some other place. "For," said I to him, "all these things are beyond my comprehension, and I fear I can never understand them."

"Yes, some time," answered he, "you will understand all these things, and many others greater and more important than all these."

“When will this be?” I asked.

“When your final change shall come, and you shall have put on the garments of immortality, you will know and enjoy all these things.”

Saying which, he led me into an alcove, and we descended again to the basement, and having loitered a while in the park, we went into the house of our host.





CHAPTER XI.

Immortality and Life—A Man on Mars puts on Immortality—Our two Spirits go to see the change—The Man is on his Sick Bed surrounded by his Friends—He asks for Music—They sing, and Spirits who have just come from Heaven mingle their sweet Voices in the Song—The Man hears them, and bids his Family and Friends “Good-by”—He seems to sleep, but his Spirit rises, and is greeted by the Spirit of his Little Child, who had waited for his Coming “so long.”

NOW, it was spoken of in the house that a certain man in the city was about to put off mortality, and put on eternal life, and my companion said:

“We will go and see this change.”

So we went to the man’s house and found him lying on a bed, in a large room, surrounded by many of his family and friends, and by many spirits who were awaiting his change. The man lay quietly for a time, and then said:

“Let me hear some sweet music as I pass from this into eternal life.”

At once there proceeded from another room soft, rich, and joyful music of instruments and sweet voices, in which those in the room and even the sick man joined. I had never heard such music on the earth, and I was delighted with its melody. As its pure strains rolled up and outward on the quiet air, I heard other music from without, mingling with that within, in sweetest harmony; and looking out, I

saw a choir of immortal spirits moving toward the place. The man's face gleamed with delight, and with a strong voice he said:

"I hear the music of the spirits mingling with the voices of the children of Mars, and the spirits of the blessed are here to welcome me among their number."

Then he said to his wife, and children, and friends:

"Rejoice with me, for I am permitted to enter upon eternal life a little before you; but I will return again in due time, to welcome you at the great change."

Then taking each one by the hand, he said:

"Good by, for a little time, for soon we shall be united again; and then together we will examine all the planets and other beautiful creations which God has scattered and ever maintains throughout space, and we will forever rejoice in the beauties and wisdom of God, who is my father and yours; good by, my loved ones, for a time;" and then he composed himself quietly to rest.

To his friends in the flesh he seemed to sleep, but his spirit arose and was first greeted by his spirit children with glad smiles and words of great joy; and among them a little daughter ran to him, and throwing her arms around him, said:

"I am so glad you have come to us, papa, for we have been waiting so long."

Then all the spirits of those who had known him before his change, greeted him with words of affection and love, and he rejoiced in his glorious change. Then the spirits escorted him onward and outward toward Sirius, singing and rejoicing as they went.

Then my companion said to me: "What thinkest thou?"

And I asked, "Is this death?"

And he answered, "On earth it is called death, but it is

entrance upon eternal life; for from the time of his change this man will never again know aught of sorrow or death, but will progress in knowledge and happiness throughout eternity, and during each cycle of the planetary systems he will approach nearer and nearer to an understanding of God's glorious works, and to the infinite perfection of God himself."

Then I asked him: "Is heaven up or down from here?"

He smiled when I asked this, but answering me, said:

"Up and down are relative terms, and not absolute. Up on any planet is any direction proceeding from the center; and down is any direction toward its center. Now, as I told you before, heaven is perfect quiet, happiness, and contentment of soul; and God, in his wisdom and greatness of mind, has made heaven to be in any place where his intelligences are perfectly happy and content; and to satisfy the desires and yearnings of all, and to maintain them in happiness and contentment forever, he has created many universes of worlds, or planetary systems, for their enjoyment as well as his own, and when the myriads of his intelligent beings shall have examined all the beauties and comprehended the mysteries of these, he will have formed other universes still for them to examine; for God abhors idleness, and has so constituted his intelligent creatures that none can be perfectly happy and content in idleness, whether they be in the flesh or in the spirit."

Then I wondered at his answer, and I asked:

"Shall I be permitted to examine the great and glorious globe which I saw through the telescope at the top of the temple?"

Then he said:

"Because you have believed, and if you fail not in your belief, you shall not only see and examine that great central

planet on which God has erected his throne, and around which all planetary systems revolve, but you shall be permitted to examine every planet, small and great, and every system of planets with their suns, and the comets, and all the intricacies and mysteries of all these, and even all the laws by which God has made and governs them."

Then I asked him: "How could I fail to believe?" And he answered:

"Many whom God has blessed even with great capacity and knowledge on earth believe not; and many who have once believed fall away from their belief."

Then I said: "When I was on the temple's top, and was fainting there, I heard a voice say: 'Fear not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God.' If, therefore, God be with me, I can not fail to believe; so when shall all these things which you have promised, be?" And he answered:

"When your final change shall come, and you shall put on immortality and eternal life, the time will be begun; but eternity alone could transpire before you could have finished; for it will require millions of ages for you to fully understand either of the planetary systems and their marvelous beauties. And yet you will understand it all."

"I believe this all," I said.

"I rejoice, my companion, in your belief; and now, as the night is far spent, and you have much to see to-morrow, we will return to our host and seek repose."

This we did, and my repose was sweet





CHAPTER XII.

Views from the Temple's Summit—A Delightful Sunrise—The Heavens a Scene of Glory—Conversation between our Spirit and his Companion—Our Spirit is suspended in a Basket at the End of the Telescope, and is permitted to view all Parts of the Division within its Range—He thinks of his Loved Ones on the Earth—A Promise for them—The Golden Roads leading from the Temple—Chariots—Winged Horses, beautiful Women and Children, and noble Men—Walks—Trees—Cottages—Lawns—Parks—Waters—Beautiful Fields and Gardens—Terraced Mountain Sides—Happy Homes.

IN the morning, at early dawn, my guide came gayly into my room and said: "Companion, come! Come to the temple's top, and see from there how the glorious sun can rise on Mars." So I arose hurriedly and went up with him to the summit of the temple. The sun had almost shown himself above the eastern hills and the mountains in the distance, far beyond. The east, the north, the south, and the far distant west, were radiant with gold, pink, scarlet, crimson, and deep purple, as the several quarters lay, and as the floating clouds were angled toward the rising monarch of the day. Near the point from which the sun was coming, bright, golden rays appeared, which changed to pink, then red, and scarlet followed, and the rays terminated in deep crimson. Clouds floating in the east, near to the sun's line of rising, were colored with bright orange

rays, tinged with bright pink; while at more distant parts away, their colors changed to mother of pearl, to scarlet, and still deeper hues; while clouds which rolled far in the north and south, were gayly clad in every hue of pink, scarlet, crimson, and deep red. In the far distant west, all these colors blended into colors deeper still; and violet shades, purple, and, lower down a deep blue, prevailed.

I gazed with admiration on the scene, and thought aloud, and said: "He who can look on such a scene as this and say, 'there is no God,' most truly is a fool."

"Why, you oft have gazed on grander views than this. Then why should you now discover the blindness of him who says 'there is no God?'" my companion asked.

"Yes, I have gazed on grander scenes, but on none more beautiful; nor is this time the first, that I have seen the folly of him who denies there is a God."

"But this scene is in obedience to nature's laws," he said.

"If this be so, who made nature's laws?" I asked.

"God himself made nature's laws, and nature executes the laws in obedience to God's will."

Now, the sun had fully risen; and we were asked by those who attended on the telescope to join them in their morning meal, upon the temple's top, which we did; after which we walked around close by the battlements, and looked down upon the park, and on the city, which lay like a beautiful gem of mosaics around the base of the temple; but its beauty I have not language to describe.

When the sun appeared to be at a considerable height, my guide asked the chief attendant upon the telescope to direct it so as gradually to sweep all that portion of Mars which was within its range. When this was done I was directed to place myself in a chair, and was quickly elevated

to the observing end of the telescope, to which the chair was firmly attached, and with me seated therein was caused to move with the telescope in its sweep over the landscape, which was presented for my observation.

I always was devoid of powers of description, of views on earth; but any description I could give of the grand view now before me, would be tame indeed, were I not aided in the task by my spirit companion. Until this time, the constant succession of grand and ever-changing scenes, which I had witnessed since my arrival on Mars, had almost caused me to forget my loved ones on earth; but now, alone, and suspended at this immense elevation, and witnessing, through the telescope, landscapes whose beauty and magnificence no one on earth had ever dreamed of, I thought of them, and exclaimed: "Oh! if my Josephine, Nellie, and my noble sons, were here; and if they could enjoy with me this view, which must make the heart of God himself rejoice, my happiness would be supreme, and I could wish such happiness to be eternal."

Now I was not aware that I had made this remark aloud, but, immediately after, I heard the voice of my guide, coming from the roof of the temple, saying:

"Not only the fairest sights you see on Mars, but fairer far, and grander than all these, shall you and your wife, and daughter, and your sons see, when you and they put on final immortality."

[Oh, thou glorious spirit of the past, who didst guide me on my pleasant visit to the planet Mars! help me, now, faintly to describe what I saw of the little world, in that golden hour.]

The telescope was so set, at first, that it embraced a view of the street leading from the east portal of the temple, from the river which surrounds the base of the city, over

the undulating country, to the summit of the mountain on which we first alighted on the planet; throughout the entire length of which the street was paved with thick gold. From walk to walk, on each side of the street, the distance was one hundred feet; and thickly scattered, here and there, along the way, were winged horses, harnessed to light, but strong, four-wheeled chariots; and other horses, without wings, and with gay riders on their backs, were gliding along the street, in opposite directions, some toward, and others from the city; and all the chariots were filled with joyful men and most beautiful women, and lovely children.

Immediately on each side of the highway were smooth walks of silver, and these were fringed on each side with trees trimmed in every conceivable shape of beauty, and bordered with delicious flowers of every variety of hue and fragrance. On each side of the street, and between it and the flower-embordered and shaded walks, streams of sparkling water flowed, in which swam red, golden, and silver colored fish, and fish of gray, mottled, and brown. On the right and on the left of the walks were ornamental gardens full of lovely trees and innumerable flowers; and beyond these, cottages of almost infinite variety of design and cultivated taste; and around these, and in the gardens, and on the winding walks therein, little children played in innocent glee, attended by older ones, or by men and women of mature years. Behind the cottages and their attendant buildings, and between this and like streets on each side, were orchards laden with rich fruits, more in number and in kind than the fruits known in all climes on earth, and yet many were the same. All through the intervening space were broad fields of grain, in every variety of kind and state, some ripe, some yet green, and some just springing through the fertile soil. Within the fields, myriads of

workers sang joyful songs, as they went onward with their grateful work.

The country's face was beautifully diversified with hills and valleys, lakes, woods, and silvery streams; everywhere changing in aspect, and at proper points cultivated to utmost limit. Here appeared dense forests, wild, unique, and grand; and there appeared a plain with trees scattered in generous yet picturesque distance and confusion. Here stood smoothly turned hills, from whose rounded tops pure waters bubbled and ran away in every direction; and there lay pretty valleys, through which strayed sparkling rivulets whose waters never leaped beyond their banks. Here were broad plains, whose furrowed surfaces showed lines of cultivation and deep rivers only; and there were rugged mountains, with terraced sides and numerous waterfalls, whose like is only seen in one place on the earth; and yet Yo Semite has not all beauty and magnificent sublimity such as these.

Passing in every direction in the air, between the temple and the mountains on each side, are airy chariots like inverted boats, with network baskets swung beneath, drawn by strong winged birds whose flight is governed by their master's hand, his word, and will. These chariots are filled, like those on the highways below, with laughing boys and girls, pretty children, prettier mothers, and cheerful men, who, in this airy way, visit each portion of the planet they desire. Here are gathered in the open air men, women, and children, who dance and sing alternately to the sweet music of stringed instruments; and there as many more are gathered in playful recreation of every kind; for the labors of the day are o'er, and all rejoice in an exuberance of happiness and life. Here animals of various kinds are resting in quiet ease; and there are others gamboling in all

varieties of play. All animate life on Mars seems to be glad in fact of its existence, and all here seem to follow the instinct given by God, of realizing happiness from every proper source.

Slowly the telescope had been turned so as to sweep each part of the division which lay between the sea, the mountains, and the city, in all parts of which I saw that my first and morning view was similar in most respects to all the others; but one thing I failed to understand; which was, that some of the highways seemed to enter the mountain sides, while others passed up their sides and across their summits. I was to understand it all.

[Here my spirit guide whispers in my ear: "Where are the many silver lakes you saw? Where are the gay birds of Paradise? and where the countless hosts of birds, beautiful to sight and valuable to the inhabitants of Mars, which flitted on light wing through Mars' pink air, or played in gardens or in fields? Did you not see all these and many other things? Where are the sandy beaches which bordered on the lakes, and the silken sails which moved so swiftly o'er their surfaces? Where are the grand old trees whose mighty branches waved along the borders of the lakes and rivers, and mirrored themselves in their pure waters? And where are the myriads of lovely water fowls that breasted the little waves so prettily? Can it be that all these have been forgotten?"

"No; not forgotten wholly, because you have brought them again to my mind. But I have no imagination, and my memory is weak; and besides I think it well to give the skeleton of the scene, and let those who have some imagination finish the picture, and embellish it."]

Being satisfied with my observations, the multiplicity of which greatly confused me, at my request the chair and

telescope were depressed, and I stood again by my guide on the top of the temple. My guide saw that I was intoxicated with what I had seen, and kindly led me to the alcove for descent, and at a signal given by touching a knob we descended to the base, and thence proceeded to the park surrounding the temple.

Before this time, I had thought that the trees in the space about the temple were all small, but now, when I looked at them more attentively, I saw that many of their tops reached far higher than the top of the lower story of the temple, and that the lowest branches of many of them exceeded that point in height; but very many of the trees were of less height than these, and their lower branches did not exceed fifty feet above the ground, while many other, evergreens, were of still lower growth. On each side of the main walks, looking from the twelve portals of the temple, were beds of fragrant and beautiful flowers and shrubs scattered in rich profusion and variety; while between the rows and beds, except where winding walks through the park intervened, short, green, and crispy, curling grass grew like a thick carpet on the ground. Those who have seen the pleasantest grounds and neatly-shaven lawns on earth, can conceive something of this paradise; in which thousands of the people of the city were walking now, while little children were playing on the lawns, and larger boys and girls were flitting here and there in playful fun, and playing at their pretty games with pleasant animation and delight. And yet, while all these things, the lofty trees, the fountain jets, the fragrant flowers and shrubs, the miniature lakes, the joyful songs of pretty birds, and the still more joyous carols of sweet children, were around me; and this park, more beautiful than I had ever seen or thought of before, I could think only of what I had seen

that day from the chair and telescope at the temple's top; and most of all I thought about the roads which seemed to terminate in the bowels of the mountains; for I could not understand why a road, which seemed to be for the use of all, should run into the mountain, and there end; for I had seen, when sitting on my lofty perch, many carriages drawn by winged horses, and filled with people, enter into the mountains on these roads, while others, as great in number, poured out therefrom; much as on earth bees enter and depart from their hives. I therefore asked my guide if the roads which I had seen, did terminate within the mountains.

"Oh, no. They do not terminate in the mountains, but pass through them, as you shall see in proper time; but now," said he, "I wish you, for the present, to lay aside all thought of what you have seen to-day, and by recreation and repose, prepare yourself for the explorations of another day; for I desire that you shall see the mines, from which most of the materials have come of which this temple and the roads that lead therefrom, were built; that you may learn that gold, and diamonds, and what you call 'precious gems,' for which people on earth exchange truth, and their health, and lives, are of slight value, when compared with joyful health and perfect happiness, in quiet and contented homes."

"I thought," said I, "that gold and silver, and diamonds, and other precious gems, were the most valuable things of all that God has made; are they not so?"

"Most of those who are called the great ones on the earth, think that they are so, or seem to think; but you can see, that here, on Mars, gold is more profuse than iron is on the earth; that silver is a common metal; and that diamonds, rubies, and other 'precious gems,' as men on earth would

say, are here held in value by the people, only as things which do not readily decay; and are, therefore, valuable for buildings, roads, and other things for general use; and to make objects which gratify the eye, and please its taste. Even with the more sensible, on earth, all these, which you call 'precious things,' are deemed of little value, when balanced against pleasant homes or life; and those who place these senseless things above their necessities and happiness, among the sons of earth, are pitiable things, indeed. Gold has but little value of itself; and diamonds none, except in durability and hardness; and hard as the diamond is, heat alone, reduces it to transparent ether. But I perceive I am wearying your comprehension, so let us seek rest at the pleasant home of our good host."





CHAPTER. XIII.

Second Marriages—Curious Custom—Women have certain Rights on Mars—
A Herald and Musicians on the Streets—"Ho, all ye who have been invited, come ye to the Marriage Feast"—Explanation—Our Spirit and his Companion Attend and Witness the Beautiful Ceremony—How the Second Marriage is Performed—The Canopy—The Announcement—The Thousands of People Witnessing—Little Boys and Girls representing Angels—The Second Marriage, for this and the Eternal Life—The Vows Taken—Curious Pledge Given—The Procession—The Feast—The Contribution—The Dance.

NOW, on this night, I attended a marriage on Mars; which occurred after this manner. Our host informed us that several couples were to celebrate their second marriages; and that many thousand persons had been invited to attend, in one of the parks within a court formed by the houses, which fronted on all sides one of the blocks of the city; and that my companion and myself, as well as he and his family, were invited as guests. When the time was come, and all things were ready, a herald, clad in gay garments, and accompanied by twelve singing men, and twelve singing women, all clad in white garments, and ornamented with rubies, emeralds, pearls, and brilliant diamonds, moved through the streets crying with a loud voice: "Ho! all ye who have been invited, come ye to the second marriage feast." To which the singers responded: "For God has

blessed the pair with offspring; and Mars will still be inhabited by the sons and daughters of Light."

Then I asked my guide, "What does all this mean?" And he, answering, said:

"In the beginning, God instructed the people of Mars that it is the privilege of women to choose their own mates, and to bear offspring; and that if offspring were not the result of the marriage, and if they desired, they might divorce themselves, and marry again another mate. But if offspring be the result of the marriage, then a second marriage takes place between the pair; and they can not be separated until they shall put on immortality; but they remain as one both in the flesh and in the life to come. The second marriage, therefore, is an event for great rejoicing among the children of Mars, because it denotes a multiplying of its people, and eternal progress among the sons of light. We are of the invited guests, and if you desire, we will join the throng which is now moving towards the delightful park, in which the nuptials are to be celebrated."

Eagerly I went with my companion and the family of our host to the beautiful place, where, under grand old trees, whose branches interlocked overhead, were assembled the thousands of men and women who had come to witness the glad ceremony, and to enjoy the marriage feast. Elegant and richly-cushioned seats had been arranged in a circle, like a vast amphitheater; and on these the invited guests reclined. Delicious aromas filled the air of the great space, and unnumbered varieties of flowers were arranged with exquisite taste in all its parts. Above the center of the circle hung three strong electric lights, which shone on the vast assemblage with fairer beams than day; and around the lights and between, a vaulted canopy of rich flowers was arched, and from its broad extremes hung long festoons of bridal

wreaths, and other sweet white flowers, which sparkled like lovely pearls in the delicious light. Around the circle, at its base, sat little girls and boys clad in gay garments, and each crowned with a wreath of flowers exquisitely arranged, and of every hue of beauty.

The herald and the singers entered from the west, singing a song of rapturous melody and delight; and following these, twelve lovely women walked, beside twelve gallant-looking men; and in the arms of every man was a little babe—the offspring of the pair—dressed in pure white, and ornamented with sweet flowers. The singers halted and, inward faced, twelve feet apart, but still sang their joyous song; and between this living wall, the twelve pairs passed with their sweet babes, until they stood beneath the canopy; then all the people rose and joined their thousand voices in the voluptuous melody; and to me it seemed that earth itself might hear the harmony of sound.

The herald waved his hand, and all was silence. Then he said: “God has blessed these pairs with children, and Mars will continue to be peopled with the children of the light of God; and now here, in the presence of you all, and beneath a canopy which is the gift of Heaven, these pairs will take upon them the mutual vows which make them one throughout eternity.”

Eleven of the pairs then stood in couples, each man having a babe in his arms, in open ranks, beneath the edge of the canopy; while one pair alone, the man having a babe on his left arm, took their places beneath the center of the canopy, side by side. The man and woman then joined their right hands beneath the babe, when the man said these words:

“In the presence of our father, God, whose children we are and delight to be, and in the presence of these assem-

bled witnesses, I take this woman whom I hold by the right hand to be my wedded wife, forever; and I do promise to love and to cherish her, as the best gift of God to me, not through this life alone, but throughout eternity to come. And I present to her this babe—image of God—bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh—as a pledge that I will cleave to her alone, as my equal and better self, hence, onward, throughout eternal ages.” Then the woman said: “I, too, in the presence of our father, God, in whose love, as children, we delight, and in the presence of all these assembled witnesses, do take this man, whom I now hold by the right hand, to be my wedded husband; and I do promise to love and to cherish him, as the best gift of God to me, not only through this life, but throughout that life which follows our taking on of immortality; and I accept this babe, in image of God, though formed beneath my heart, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, as an earnest, too, that I will cleave to him alone, as my equal and better self, hence onward, until eternity shall have numbered its last cycles.”

The woman then took the babe in her arms and kissed it, and the husband kissed her and the child; and then the pair repaired to a platform at one side, under the canopy; and having seated themselves upon richly upholstered chairs, awaited the marriage ceremony of the eleven other pairs; all of which being completed, the herald, with a loud voice, declared the second marriage of the pairs “completed according to the will of God.” Then twelve little boys, and a like number of little girls, dressed in gauzy outward raiment, and provided with wings, entered the arena in pairs; each pair drawing a little carriage lined with soft damask, and proceeding in front of the married pairs took the babes, and gently laying them in the carriages, drew them in sixes,

side by side, followed by the married pairs in sixes, each pair following their babe. And thus the procession began, the herald following in the rear of the twelve pairs, and the musicians following in twelves, while the invited guests, in like numbers, followed the musicians to the table, where the marriage feast was spread, and where all were seated and partook bountifully of the feast. After the supper was finished, music and dancing followed, and gayety, mirth, and joy prevailed; during a cessation in which, all the guests contributed liberally from their stores, to start the married pairs bountifully in life.

Such are the curious second marriages among the children of Mars. Then my guide led me back to the house of our host, where on a downy bed, sweet music floated still on the air, and lulled me to quiet and delicious repose.





CHAPTER XIV.

Morning—In the Garden—A Little Child Appears and Invites our two Spirits to take Breakfast with her People—They Go with the Lovely Little One—The Father's Thankfulness—Conversation at the Table—The Child asks "Papa, what is Immortality?"—It is Explained—The Child understands, and wishes herself to put on Immortality, but will wait patiently until her change comes—She has Seen and Talked with a Spirit.

AT early dawn I arose refreshed, and proceeded to the garden in the rear of our host's house. Birds sang on every tree and bush, and the air was full of melody and the fragrance of flowers. My companion had preceded me, and was enjoying there, alone, the pleasant morning hour. As I appeared, he welcomed me with a glad smile and cheerful words, and said: "I am glad to see you so refreshed, for you have much to do to-day; we shall proceed, after the manner of men of Mars, to visit their prolific mountains, and there see some of the mines from which they brought much of the material for their temple of learning here."

Just as he said this a brown-haired little child appeared, and running to my guide, placed both her hands in his, and said: "Will you and your good friend come and take breakfast with my papa and mamma and us little people?"

"Yes, my sweet child," said he, giving her a kiss. "Will you kiss me too?" said she, running up to me. "Most

gladly will I kiss you, lovely little one;" and stooping down I kissed both her cheeks and lips, and thought of three lovely little girls that I once knew on earth, but now in heaven, who often used to come to me and get some morning kisses, and many more at noon and night. That was a long time since, but I shall see them once again.

Each with a little hand in one of ours, we went into the house denoted by the child, and soon were seated at the richly-laden table. Before we ate, the father said in a rich and mellow voice:

"It is not with our lips alone, but with our hearts, dear Father, that we thank thee that our lot was cast on Mars, and that thou didst lead our earliest ancestors to know, to love, and to adore thee. We thank thee, that thou didst teach them, and dost teach us, that we are but miniature representatives of thyself, and partake, in miniature, of thy capacities and knowledge; and that as thou hast lived and dost live forever, and art forever creating new worlds, and new intelligences, and other things, so wilt thou cause us forever hence to live, to understand, and to enjoy the beauty, the majesty, and the greatness of thy works. We thank thee, that those who have filled out the number of their days on Mars, and have put on immortality, are permitted to come to us at will again, to whisper good counsel in our ears, and to aid us in the cultivation of our minds and in our preparation for that glad change when we, too, shall put on immortality and eternal life.

"We thank thee for every good with which thou hast surrounded us; that thou hast caused our little world to yield abundantly all things necessary for our support in answer to our labors. Incline us each day to industry; that we may diligently labor for our own, and for the common good; and incline us to do toward all our fellows as

we wish them to do toward us. Bless all the people of Mars with right thoughts and actions, and elevate their minds, that all may know that they who do their fellows the greatest good in this life, are loved and honored most by thee. Bless these apparent strangers here. Imbue them greatly with thy wisdom, and cause them forever to rejoice with us in acquiring a knowledge of thy glorious laws, of thy boundless works, and of the rich fullness of thy exhaustless love. Raise up the minds of these little ones to an exalted knowledge of thyself; and when each shall have remained his allotted time on Mars, give to us the garments and the powers of a glorious immortality; and we will rejoice in thee forever."

Now when he had said this they all began to eat; but soon the little child who came for us in the garden said:

"Papa, what is immortality?"

Then the father said: "You will remember that some days ago a good old man, whom you had often seen and talked with, seemed to be cold and stiff, and we carried his body to the 'city of the dead,' and placed it in a tomb. We call that place the 'city of the dead,' because we carry and deposit there the worn-out bodies of our friends who have no further use for them."

"Yes, I remember," said the little child; "but the good old man is not dead, for I saw him in the garden yesterday, and talked with him. He was very beautiful, and a bright light was all around him. Is that immortality?"

"The halo which you saw around him, my child, is not immortality; but he has changed his form of life, and will live, and love, and remember, and will improve in knowledge, and in wisdom, as long as God himself will live."

"What makes God let people die, when we love them so

much, and wish them to be with us all the time?" the little child asked.

The father answered: "They do not die, my child, but simply change their clothing. When you have worn your clothes until they are thin and poor, they are laid away and you put on new ones. So the spirit of man, which is the real man, puts off the body, which it has worn as a garment, and puts on garments which are always beautiful, and can never perish or be destroyed; and it was in such new garments that you saw the good old man in the garden."

"Why, he did not look old, papa," said the child; "and yet I knew it was he whose body we had followed to the tomb. He told me he would remain on Mars a few days, and then he would go with his friends to visit Earth, Venus, Mercury, and the sun; and then that he would visit Herschel, Saturn, and the planets Neptune and Leverrier. But he told me that before he left this universe, to visit the other universes in space, and the central planet, where our Father resides in person, he would come and see me again. I should like to go with him when he comes again, if I could only bear to go away from you and mamma, and from my brothers and sisters, and other little friends."

A slight sadness passed over the father's face, but he said: "Wait patiently, my child, until your appointed time shall come; and then perhaps some of us will go with you, and visit all those planets, and the myriads of other bright stars which God has made and sustains in space by his strong will alone. I am glad, my child, that you have been so honored by the good old man; and I hope that you will daily improve your powers of mind, and be ready when your change shall come, to enter upon a most exalted sphere; for God confers high honors upon them who learn

most of him, and of his laws, and who are best prepared on Mars, or other planet, to comprehend the beauties and the sublimity of his works."

"But do all people wait until their appointed time before they go?" asked the little questioner.

"No, my dear child, not all; for some weak-minded and foolish ones willfully violate God's laws, and in obedience to its penalties they change before their time; but these receive the contempt of God and are banished forever from his presence; and are not permitted to visit the loveliest of his works, nor to associate with the good in the eternal life."

"Then I shall wait till my appointed time, and I will keep all his laws that I know," said the little child.

When the meal was finished the family sang a sweet song, and the older ones went to their various duties. The little children ran out into the park, in the rear of the house, and were soon engaged in innocent plays; and my guide and myself returned to the house of our former host.





CHAPTER XV.

The Mines—A Winged Horse, and a Chariot of Gold inlaid with Precious Gems—The Horse and his Rider—Curious Customs Observed—Planting Trees in Circles, in Triangles, and in Straight Lines—The Reason Explained—On Mars all Men are Entitled to Equal Privileges—Peculiar Notions of the People—Where Heaven is to be Found—The Heaven—The Mountain Near—The Tunnel Reached.

“**T**HERE are two ways,” said my guide, “by which we can proceed after the manner of the children of Mars, to the mountain ranges in the distance, and examine the mines; one of which is by going in carriages, drawn by the fleet-footed, winged horses of Mars, which you have often noticed; and the other is, to proceed in the air-vessels drawn by strong-winged birds, such as you saw through the telescope. Which course do you think you prefer?”

Forgetting, for the moment, that I was not in fact in the flesh, I answered: “It often makes me giddy to go to great altitudes in air; while if on the solid and firm ground, I always have a clear mind; but I prefer now to go by such vehicle as may be most pleasant to yourself.”

He smiled at this, and then said: “Spirits are dizzy at no height, as I told you once before, but go where they will and desire; but as we have taken the form, and adopted the customs of Mars, and as you will, in crossing the seas,

have opportunity to be drawn through the air by the swift-winged birds, to-day we will ride in a carriage drawn by horses with wings; and you can observe much of the country, as we pass over the golden-paved roads," and so saying, he spoke to the master of the house and said:

"Will you have prepared for us a fleet-winged horse, and a rider therefor? For we wish to visit some of the mines of this division to-day; and we would like soon to be on our way."

The master said, "Yes," and instantly repaired to the rear of the house, whence through an alley soon proceeded a large and beautiful horse with wings, attached to a carriage having four wheels, and ornamented with gems of every hue, inlaid in gold, and representing birds of gay plumage, while the pink seats were of soft and delicate material, appearing like satin. Upon the horse, just in front of his winged shoulders, sat a rider clad in a garment of white, and having a crimson cap on his head, and a rich sash of blue pendent from his waist. The back of the horse was as high as I could reach with my hand, as I stood by his side, and his beautifully-arched neck was much higher than any effort of mine could attain, although I am five feet and ten inches in height. At a word from the master my guide sprang into the carriage and said to me, "Come." I took a seat by his side, and at once we were rolling along over the golden pavement. When we had proceeded a short distance outside of the city, I saw at different places, men, women, and children, in groups of different numbers, planting trees of various kinds, in such lines as to mark triangular forms; and I asked my guide for the cause.

"It has become a part of the religious duty of the people of Mars," said he, "to plant three trees during the year

after the birth of a child to any pair; one of which trees is for fruit, another for ornament, and another for use; and this custom has prevailed for many thousands of centuries, and is never neglected by any family. You have doubtless observed that many of the trees are very ancient, and that fruit-bearing trees are very abundant, for when the trees have once been planted, they are never neglected; and those which were planted for ornament or for fruit, are never destroyed unless others are at once substituted in their places; and these bear the names, and ever commemorate the birth of them for whose honor and benefit they were planted."

"The custom is as beautiful," said I, "as it is useful; but I notice that these trees are planted in the form of a triangle; can you tell me why this is so?"

"The inhabitants of Mars," answered he, "are all taught that in the thought of God, and as children of the same planet, each is the equal of the other; and as the perfect triangle has three equal sides, this form of planting the trees dedicated to each child, is adopted to impress upon all, the lesson of their equal rank."

"The idea is a very beautiful one," I remarked, "but I have noticed very many trees here which stand in circles, with another, and larger tree, standing in the center of the circle, while some have trees side by side. Have these trees also a meaning?"

"Yes; these trees which were planted in a circle, have a meaning more grand than the others. When either the father or the mother puts on immortality, the wife or the husband surviving, and the children of the pair, plant a tree, representing the departed one; and around this they plant other trees, to represent the surviving one, and the children; or other near and dear friends."

"Why do they plant them in a circle?" I asked.

"To those who remain, that denotes two valuable and important facts. The tree in the center represents both God, the Father of all, and also the material parent and friend; and as the other trees are placed in a circle equally distant from the central tree, this conveys to their minds the truth, that as the parent is equally near to, and equally distant from, each of them, so is God, the Father of their spirits, equally near to, and equally distant from, all of his children, who seek to know and to do his will."

"Many people on earth have ideas similar to this," I said; "but I have never known people there to plant trees to perpetuate it."

"The people of earth," said he, "are less inclined to study the beautiful things of God, and his love, than are the people of Mars; but for nearly two thousand of Earth's years, its people have been slowly inclining up toward the true life, and a correct knowledge of God."

"I have noticed," said I, "that sometimes the trees stand in rows, consisting of two larger ones at the extreme and smaller ones between them. Have those trees also a meaning?"

"Yes. The meaning there is similar to the meaning of those in a circle. The older trees denote the parents of the children formerly in the flesh, and the inner ones the surviving offspring of the pair. The outer trees whose branches interlock above the smaller below, denote that the parents are united in God's love, and that though above, in the spirit world, they still love and protect, to the best of their power, the children of their care "

Now while we were conversing after this manner, we were passing through one of the most delightful countries I had ever seen. Beautiful cottages peeped out from behind beautiful trees and trellises, covered with climbing roses

and flowering vines, on either side of our road. Gardens of the loveliest flowers, and of almost endless variety of color and form, and gardens of fine vegetables of all kinds, met our eyes on whichever side we looked. Fields of every variety of nutritious grass, and fields of waving grain, bordered by nicely clipped hedges and by stately trees; sparkling and pure waters gliding in little rivulets down the gently-sloping hillsides, and winding through the valleys; fountains playing on every hilltop, and on the lawns in front of many of the cottages; intelligent-looking and cheerful men and women, and merry, laughing, and playful children, presented to my mind a scene of ever-changing enchantment and pleasure. With such a scene around me, I thought I should be glad to spend an eternal life, and I could not refrain from asking my companion, "Is this like heaven?"

"Yes," he said, "this is something like what you call heaven, because the people of Mars have learned that heaven is to be found in peaceful, happy, beautiful, and contented homes, where all labor industriously for all, and for the happiness of others, and where they do to others as they wish others to do to them. But this is but a miniature of the heaven of which you speak, for the heaven of God, is as much lovelier and more delightful than this, as this is lovelier than the dreariest desert or bleak and lonely mountain top on Mars or Earth; and all this, and every beauty which the mind of God has conceived and created, will he permit you to see when the time shall come for you to put on final immortality."

"I am not worthy of such honor," I said, "and I fear my powers are too weak to comprehend delights so glorious."

"God will increase your powers of comprehension, and permit you, in eternity, to know these things because of

your faith in him and your desire to know and to understand his works."

Until this time, I had not noticed the great speed at which we were moving; for I had been thinking of what my guide was saying, and of the ever-changing beauties of the country through which we were passing. But now, as I looked from side to side, and saw the rider clinging with both hands to the mane of the horse, I noticed that the horse's wings seemed to lift his body from the ground, and that his feet moved with such velocity that they could not be seen. One quick instant the wings were spread out like broad sails, and the next were gathered closely to the horse's sides; and these motions were repeated with the swift velocity of thought, and quicker than sight could discover.

We now drew near the mountain's base. Its sharp angles and defiles, and deep indentures, could be distinctly traced by a glance of the eye. Its terraced sides rose up higher and higher still, until its lofty summits seemed to lift themselves above the confines of the air.

The wings and feet of the horse, as if controlled by the same impulse—as they were—gradually moved slower than before; and, as we appeared to be just entering a circular orifice in the mountain, at his rider's command, the horse spread his wings and held them stationary, and then moved onward with his feet alone. Slower, and still more slowly our carriage moved, until at the order of his rider the horse stopped.





CHAPTER XVI.

The Tunnel into the Mountain—Its Size—How Made—How Lighted—The Station, or Rotunda, in the Mountain—Its Size—The Manner of Supplying the Mine with Pure Air.

“PLEASE to enter the tunnel, with the horse and carriage, and proceed until you come to the gold mines,” said my guide to the rider, as soon as we halted.

The form and size of the tunnel into—and, as I was afterwards told, through—the mountain, greatly excited my curiosity. Its diameter, from side to side, is twenty-seven feet, and from its top to the track, or road-bed, is twenty-one feet. Its bed is slightly oval, and is paved with wrought gold. Beneath its bed is an open space in the form of an arch, the base of which formed a part of the original tunnel. At stated intervals there are turnouts, or wider places than the general road-bed, for the convenience of carriages in meeting others passing in the contrary direction. There are also frequent ducts at the sides of the road-bed, which lead into the sewer, beneath the bed, formed by the arch and the base of the tunnel. Instead of darkness, which I anticipated finding in the tunnel, I found a strong, but soft and delicious light, which I noticed proceeded from diamond lamps, which were fixed to the sides of the tunnel at stated intervals. These things astonished me greatly, and I asked

my guide how so great a tunnel was excavated, and how the light of the diamond lamps was produced.

"The tunnel was excavated," said my guide, "as were all the tunnels through the mountains of Mars, by hollow and circular diamond drills, whose orbits cut a circle twenty-seven feet in diameter, and left a core twenty-five feet in diameter. The core was broken up as the drill progressed, and, with the debris caused by the drill, was hauled in vehicles from the tunnel as the work progressed, and deposited in various of the deep mountain gorges and then covered with soil."

"But where was the power obtained," I asked, "to operate such mighty drills for driving the tunnel in?"

"The fall of water down the mountain sides," he said, "was utilized, by confining the waters in pipes and conducting them upon wheels, which caused the drills to move in a circle around the core, and which were kept up to the face of the work by constant pressure from their rear."

"The tunnel and the mines," he added, "as are all the tunnels through the mountains, are lighted by currents of magnetic electricity, conducted to the diamond lamps by wires which are placed along the sides of the tunnels and bring the constant fluid, while the lamps intercept the currents and reveal their white, delicious light."

"How are these fluid currents generated?" I asked.

"They also are produced," he said, "by utilizing the waters of the mountains through pipes confining them, which direct their gravitating force upon the verge of wheels prepared for the purpose. In this manner, too, are generated currents of the fluid which illuminate the upper story of the temple, and the great diamond lights above the mountain tops which you mistook for moons on the night of our arrival here on Mars;" and then I felt that my guide

could read my thoughts, for I knew quite well that I had not mentioned my error to him.

We had now arrived at the station called the "Gold Mine;" and my guide and myself descended from the carriage, while the rider, clinging to one wing of the horse, was carefully let down to the bed of the way. The station was an excavation shaped like a dome; and was three hundred feet in diameter at its base, and as many in height. Many lights, like those in the tunnel, were around the sides of the dome, and from its top extended a tube, seven feet in diameter, upward through the crust of the mountain, into the air above.





CHAPTER XVII.

The Gold Mine—The Tunnel Leading to it—Rumbling Sound—Net of Framework of Iron—Walks on Various Levels—Immense Excavation—Labor of Thousands of Years—The Age of Mars—Age of the Earth—Chronology at Fault—Pre-Adamite Men—God Chooses Mediums to Reveal His Will, but Leaves them Free to Act—The Reason Given—Zoroaster, Moses—A Talk—Cars Filled with Mixed Gold and Quartz—Propelling Motion Explained—They Rise to the Seventieth Chamber—Diamond Drills at Work—Miners at Work—How they Manage—The Mine Examined—The Manner of Using Gold on Mars.

“**I**N examining the mines,” said my guide, “we will proceed as the children of Mars; and as a glance at one of a class will reveal the manner in which all of its class are operated, for all are worked much alike, we will now turn to the right and see the workings of one of the gold mines on Mars;” and so saying, he turned into a tunnel on our right, which extended almost at a right angle from the main tunnel entering the dome, and I followed closely beside him, for I heard a deep rumbling sound far away, and feared the mountain might fall; in which case I wanted his aid. Having proceeded nine or ten thousand yards through a line of braces, bars, and caps, which looked like the work of giant bees, he stopped, and said, “Look around.” I looked on every side, and saw nothing but a vast frame-work of iron, extending in

chambers, like the cells of bees on earth, if open at their ends and sides, one above the other, and at an angle of about thirty-five degrees from a vertical line, from the place where we stood, far below, and on each side, and upward as far as I could see, and to a great distance before and behind us; making a vast network of the strong and massive material upon which, at various levels, walks were laid, and steps led up from chamber to chamber. I was filled with astonishment at the solidity and strength, as well as at the beauty, perfection, and intricacy of the work; and I asked, "What is that rumbling sound that I hear, and what does all this work mean?"

"The excavation and framework," said he, "is all the result of the labors of the children of Mars; and the rumbling sound you hear, is the rattling of cars, loaded with the product of the mighty mountain lode of gold, far in advance of us; which some of the industrious miners are sending to the furnaces in the bowels of the mountain, to be reduced. The work which you see around you has been progressing during nineteen thousand centuries of Mars' years, which would be equal to about thirty-seven thousand centuries of the years of Earth. The immense network of iron frame which you see, was placed within the mountain many centuries ago, to sustain the great pressure of the mountain-sides left unsupported else, in place of the great quantities of gold and quartz which have been removed therefrom."

"Why! is Mars then older than the earth?" I asked; "for many people on the earth believe their planet is only about six thousand years of age."

"Six thousand of God's years would do," said he, "for they are cycles of eternity; but six thousand of Earth's years are but a hand's breadth of its existence, compared with its diameter. The earth," continued he, "was created

'in the beginning,' many millions of its years ago; yet indeed Adam and Eve, from whom our energetic race have sprung, were placed upon it not many more than six thousand of its years ago, and still the earth had been inhabited by men of different races long prior to that time."

"The Bible doesn't say so," I said.

"Your Bible is a most wonderful and sacred book, for it contains many revelations of God's will toward man, through unbiased mediums; but it was written by men, who added to it, and recorded much which God does not approve, and which places him in a false attitude toward beings of his love and care; and yet the Bible, even as written, is not understood by men; neither its figures, its prophecies, nor its instructions."

"You say that men existed on the earth before Adam and Eve; why does not the Bible say so?"

"Because it was written by men of our own race, and by men of my race particularly, but it does not deny what I have told you; and the writer of the first four books gave traditions of the history of our race only; and he mixed among the early revelations of God's will to men, much that God did not reveal through any medium."

"Why did God permit this? I asked.

"Because he permits all of his creatures to follow their own wills; and he holds them responsible only when they violate his laws; and Moses having been trained as a prince of the Egyptians, but inheriting a love for his own people, who were of Chaldean origin and faith, added to the traditional knowledge of God's revelations unto men, which the Chaldeans had preserved, and handed down to Abraham, many conceptions of his own, which he had gained and was guided in, by his knowledge of Egyptian lore and laws."

"What do you think of Moses?" I asked.

"In many respects, Moses was a wonderful and great man; and in his day, the most remarkable of all. But he was possessed of a disposition most unmerciful, and gave to the people whom he led, many unwise and cruel laws. God used Moses as a medium to communicate his will on Mount Sinai; but the general laws for the government of the wandering Israelites, were his own. But here, on Mars, and in the bowels of this mountain, we have little to care for either Moses or his laws; for we are here for your benefit and observation."

We now again advanced about three thousand yards, and came to a point where we saw many cars laden with quartz mixed with gold, and propelled by an invisible power, in a direction at a right angle with that of our progress.

"These cars," said my guide, "are filled with gold mixed with quartz, as it is taken from the great vein which once lay in the space which we have been traversing. They are moving in constant succession from the base of the chutes and the top of the winzes, and the present face of the lode, to the furnaces in the mountain, where the metal is thoroughly separated from the quartz by a proper appliance of heat. They are propelled by a chain of links of iron, which constantly runs beneath the bed of this tunnel, on rollers placed therein to sustain it, and which is moved by means of water conveyed down the mountain-sides in pipes, and turned upon the periphery of iron, horizontal wheels, which are set beneath this tunnel, near the outer base of the mountain. By similar means, the vehicles which you saw, at frequent intervals climbing the sides of the mountain without, are propelled."

I had noticed the vehicles alluded to, as we were riding

toward the tunnel which led to the mines; but I was so intently observing other things, that I had not mentioned the matter to my guide.

"We will now," said my companion, "ascend to the seventieth chamber above, and proceed thence to the face of the mine;" and saying this, he led me to a platform, and putting his hand upon a rod, we ascended to the story named. Here he stopped the upward motion of the platform, and we stepped out upon a floor. Then we walked, still southward, until we came where many strong-armed workmen were delving upon the surface of a wall of gold and quartz mixed, into which many small diamond drills were cutting their way with great rapidity; while with picks, shovels, and wheelbarrows, many men were gathering the golden ore, and dumping it into a chute, down which it found its way to the seventieth floor below, at an angle of about thirty-five degrees from a line drawn vertically.

"Observe carefully," said my companion, "for the manner of working the mines of silver, copper, and iron, on Mars, is similar to this working of a mine of gold; and you will be able only to glance at the silver and iron mines, as we pass through the tunnels in which they are; for you have yet to see the great diamond mine of this division, and many other things on Mars, of which no son of earth has ever dreamed."

Then I noticed that the little diamond drills revolved rapidly around a core, and that having cut their way a distance of about three feet into the face of the hard and tough material, they were stopped and withdrawn therefrom, and then the core was broken by a long slim wedge, and taken out. The orifice was then filled with a light yellow substance, into which a small copper wire was run to the extreme of the hole, and then the hole was filled with

other substances, which were compressed to great solidity. After the many holes were all filled in this manner, the workmen, with my companion and myself, retired to a distance of three hundred yards or more, at which point was a small machine which generated electricity; and from which a wire led to each wire inserted in the orifices. One of the men turned the handle of the machine a few revolutions, and upon connecting the long wire with it, an explosion took place which seemed to make the whole mountain tremble; and for an instant there seemed to be a greater light than that given by all the many electric lamps which shone in the immense cavern; but all this was attended by no smoke or unpleasant smell. We all then again repaired to the face of the mine, and found that many hundred tons of gold and quartz had been loosened and thrown down therefrom, and were scattered along the inclined plane toward the seventieth floor below. Having seen all this, my companion led me back to the platform on which we had ascended; and, putting his hand upon the rod, we descended to that lower chamber of the mine through which we entered it. Now the profuse use of gold on the planet, as I had seen it used since my arrival on Mars, seemed to me to be a great waste of a very precious metal; and, as we were walking toward the station where we had alighted from our vehicle, I asked my companion: "Why are the people of Mars so prodigal of gold?"

"They are not wasteful of it by any means," he answered, "nor of anything which God has placed at their disposal. They realize that gold is one of the most useful as well as the most plentiful of metals on the planet; and as they feel that all things were given by God for the general use of all of his intelligent creatures, the peo-

ple of Mars use gold, and all other things of general utility, for the general good; and although there are different gradations of intellect here, and different fields of labor, as their different minds are cultivated, yet each of its inhabitants has an equal interest in all its wealth and all its institutions; and any one of all its people may rise by superior merit and application, and by superior cultivation of mental and moral qualities, to the highest position which can be attained by man upon the planet; for the highest position here is that which enables its possessor to do, and who does, the greatest amount of good to all the people of the planet. If gold, or iron, or diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds, or other precious gems be used for one, they are equally for the good of all; and the greatest pride which is indulged in here is the pride of superior excellence, and that of doing the greatest amount of good. Have you not seen that industry is universal here?"

"Yes, I *have* noticed that, except," I added, "that sometimes all seem to take a time for fun, and sport, and play, in which men and women, youths and little children join; but what bothers me just now is, what they do for money."

"Just like a man of earth," said he. "Platinum coins they have on Mars, and coins of smooth cut pearls, pearls of great price and value, and of all values they have paper representatives. As for the rest of what you said, the people of Mars learned many thousand centuries ago that it was wise at times to relax their energies at stated intervals, and give themselves up to songs and dances, to sports and plays, and to joys and innocent recreations; and they devote every seventh revolution of their planet on its axis, to rest from their arduous labors, to innocent delights, and to rejoicing in the life and happiness which God has placed within their reach."

At this time we had returned to the rotunda, whereupon, at the suggestion of my guide, the rider seized the depressed wing of the horse, and mounted to his proper place, and my guide and myself having seated ourselves in the carriage, we moved onward in the tunnel.





CHAPTER XVIII.

Conversation while Riding in the Tunnel—How Gold is Separated from Quartz on Mars—Silver, Copper, and Iron—The Companion Spirit Explains how he has Progressed in Knowledge since he left Earth, Nineteen Hundred Years Ago—His Brother is in Great Authority—God's Purest Medium—Many True Mediums Spoken of—Zoroaster—Moses, one Greater than all Others—Swedenborg, Wesley, William Penn, Whitefield—Modern Spiritualism Alluded to—Not all Correct, for some are Led by Evil Spirits—Where the Worthy Spirits are—The Silver Mine much like the Gold Mine.

AS we glided along over the smooth bed and past the brilliant lights, my thoughts reverted to what I had just witnessed, and I asked my companion: "How is the gold separated from the quartz on Mars?"

"By various processes," he answered; "but on a large scale, the quartz and gold are melted together with a proper flux, and the melted gold, being heavier than the flux, is constantly run off in a stream at the base of the furnace, through a siphon of platinum; while the melted gangue and flux are run off in another constant stream, at a higher point at the base of the furnace, and through another tube. The gold and quartz mixed with the flux are constantly added at a point toward the top of the furnace, and are constantly separated and run off at its base. By another process the gold is dissolved in a liquid which acts on the gold only, and not on the quartz, after which the

gold is precipitated in the form of fine dust, as you saw it done in one of the laboratories of the temple. Electricity is also used to gather its fine particles into a mass."

"How are silver, copper, and iron worked here?" I asked.

"By processes similar to those used in working gold; only different materials are used as fluxes and solvents, and in most respects the processes are similar to those prevailing among the skilled metallurgists of the earth for reducing like metals," he answered.

The amount of knowledge of these things shown by my companion astonished me greatly; yet I dared not ask him where or when he had learned them; and he, perceiving my thoughts, said:

"When I first left the earth, I was even more ignorant than yourself of all these and other things; yet now, for almost nineteen hundred of Earth's years, I have been progressing in knowledge; and I have not only visited every planet in this system, but with my elder brother have visited the great central planet of all the universes which God has fitted up for his personal home and pleasure; and where my brother is in great authority respecting matters on the earth. At his request I came to you, as you lay under the tree, with instructions to take you in spirit to any part of the wide dominion of God in the heavens which you might designate; and had you asked me to take you to the fixed star Sirius, or to the central planet, which you call heaven, I should have taken you."

"I am not anxious to go to heaven quite yet, for I would like to visit Saturn first, and go back from there to earth; but I can not imagine," I said, "what has entitled me to such unmerited honor, and to such great reward."

"There was a motive for it all, a great and glorious mo-

tive, and it must be crowned with success. My brother was the purest medium that God's spirit ever rested on, on earth; and him he loved so much, he called him his son, and made him so. He, my loved brother, was the founder of true spiritualism on earth—so little understood; and of his entire soul God's spirit took possession, and communicated his loving will to man. More than eight thousand of earth's years ago, God made Zoroaster a medium of his will, and tried through him to lead man up toward a true knowledge of himself. Zoroaster was a pure medium, and true, and uninfluenced by false teachings; but he pointed to the sun, and called it an emblem of God; and finally his followers fell to a worship of the sun itself, and of fire, which they believe to be its offspring. After him, long years, Moses was used by God; but he mixed his knowledge of Egyptian lore with the will of the Creator, and gave the Jews instructions in many things not pleasing in God's sight, and so God removed him from his priesthood; and yet he honored him for giving to his people, though mixed with wrong, a revelation of his will. For many centuries before my brother's day on earth, true spiritual doctrines existed there; but they were so mixed with fable and the false teachings of ignorant and designing men, that the true and sweet doctrines of eternal life could not be clearly understood therefrom. Modern spiritualism, too, though true in much, is much at fault; for many of its claiming followers are led by undeveloped spirits of evil men, and these deny my brother's mediumship, and his true and sacred teachings, and discard them, and because they fail to organize and act with one accord, for good. More than a hundred of Earth's years ago, my brother sent one to Emanuel Swedenborg, the Swede, and through him, as a medium, tried to give to man on earth again, a correct conception of his love and

doctrines, which are God's; but men on earth are so rooted in ways of prejudice and themselves, that few indeed would listen to his loving words. But Swedenborg was often imposed upon and misled by evil spirits who saw the purity of his soul, and basely took advantage of his desire for truth and light, through wanton enmity of good; and these impressed him to write their pretended revelations; but they have added to their length of punishment. Messengers were sent to John Wesley, and to William Penn, Whitefield, and to others since, and through them men were asked to seek the truth. But the people of the earth are too much wedded to their earthly greed of things of earth, to give attention to the more valuable things of true, eternal life. My brother saw you as you lay beneath the tree, and said: 'Go and take him, in spirit, wherever he may desire; perhaps he may be made a medium of communicating again to man the true doctrines of eternal life, and many may be led through him to believe in me, and come and enjoy the rich inheritance which I have received from my Father, who is also the Father of all the good and just.' I instantly obeyed; and you desired to visit Mars. You are now on Mars, and within the interior of one of its great mountain ranges."

He ceased, and not knowing what else to say, I said: "Yes, I know I am on Mars, and in this mountain, and among these mines; but I can not understand why such unmerited honor has been conferred upon me."

"If you observe and recollect, even the outlines of what you see and hear on this planet, and faithfully obey the directions which will be given you, you will receive a glorious reward. But remember to write this: All spirits that appear to men on earth are not from God, and many come to men whom God keeps on the outskirts of his universes,

and will not permit them to come within sight of his great throne, nor place their feet upon his central planet, which he makes the home of all the good. The men of earth should try the spirits, by tests my brother gave, and see whether they be of God, or no. Their good or evil deeds will show men whence they are."

"Swedenborg," said I, "died more than a hundred of Earth's years ago, did he not?"

"No!" said my companion. "Swedenborg, and Wesley, and William Penn, and the others that I named, put on the garments of immortality and left the earth in flesh forever; but they live in glory, on the great central planet, beloved of my brother and honored by the Creator of all the universes."

While we had been talking we had also been passing rapidly onward in the tunnel, as I knew by the many lamps we had passed, which, on account of the rapidity of our motion, seemed to be almost a continued light; and now we came into another rotunda, in form and finish much like the first. Here we again alighted and visited the workings of the silver mine, which, though of less extent, was in most respects much like the gold mine from which we had just come; and as a description of the former has been feebly given, on account of my great lack of descriptive, and total absence of imaginative powers, it may be stated here that the mines of gold, of silver, of copper, and of iron on Mars are much alike in manner of being worked, and a correct description of one class would be a fair description of the other; but iron, on Mars, is deemed more valuable than gold, because it is more unyielding in its nature; but it is much less used. Having visited the several mines in this mountain, my companion directed the rider to return to the surface and proceed to the diamond mines, which are in the same great mountain range.



CHAPTER XIX.

Going toward the Diamond Mine—Obstructions on the Road—How our Spirit judged of Directions on Mars—Delightful Scenery—Tall Trees—Flowers—Growth of Plants—Terraced Mountains—Beautiful Birds—Pretty Homes—Lovely Children—The Spirit Thinks of his Own—Earth Might be Made as Beautiful—How—The People of Mars Occupy Certain Quantities of Land, and Cultivate all they Occupy—Mars is their Home, and they Beautify it—They think Less of Gold than they do of Happiness in Quiet and Cheerful Homes—The Children of Mars and of Earth Compared while the Spirits are Passing through an Enchanting Country.

HAVING resumed our places in the vehicle, we passed hurriedly by the brilliant lamps until we were again out of the tunnel, and on the grand open plain which extended up to the base of the mountain. At this point we turned northward, and glided with great rapidity toward the equator of the planet. The term "northward" is used because we traveled toward the upward pole of the planet as it points outward from the vast plane of its orbit, beyond Ursa Major, and toward the confines of unlimited space; for up and down, north and south, east and west, are terms not used in the realms of infinity in the same sense they are used on the planets, and yet I judged of direction, of motion, and of space on Mars as I judge of similar things on the earth.

As we moved onward near the base of the mountain range,

every glance of the eye, and every scene before us, was exquisitely delightful. Trees, varying in height from fifty to four hundred feet, graced each side of the way; and the perfume of fragrant flowers was inhaled with every breath. Clinging vines crept upward along the trunks of the beautiful trees, and capped their spreading tops with every hue of delicious color; and thence reached downward in gay festoons, and in every form of weird-like beauty. Moats of castles, pyramids of flowers, climbing roses, magnolias, golden jessamines, and other lovely creeping vines, and every variety of beauty and of fragrance, of which even an imaginative mind could form a conception, were *here* portrayed in every fantastic and every solid form; while *there* were leaves of curious plants in every variety of form of beauty; some so ethereal as to give way to a spirit's breath, while others were so broad and firm as would furnish safe shelter for a hundred men. Openings among the thrifty trees often gave us views of the corrugated surface of the mountain range, up along whose fertile sides, and nearly to the snow line, we could see pretty cottages, which stood on their prepared terraces, surrounded by gardens of pretty flowers; trees for ornament and use, and by shrubs and bushes laden with luscious-looking fruit. Birds of paradise, with their graceful plumes; cockatoos, white, green, and yellow; brilliant humming-birds in infinite variety of size and gay plumage; the mourning and the turtle-dove; the swift-winged pigeon, and many other birds of earth, I recognized; added to which were a thousand other birds in color of orange, scarlet, crimson, emerald, blue, green, black, and white, and every other grateful shade of color and form of frame, and also many birds for use not seen on earth. On every side were cultivated fields, all small in size, but gardens in fertility and cultivation. On

each side and in every direction, were delightful-looking homes, around which happy-looking children played, and contented men and women labored. To me, as I gazed, it seemed the perfection of a delicious dream; and forgetting for the moment where we were, I exclaimed: "O, if Josie and my children, Andrew, Nellie, and Willie, were all here, this would be a heaven."

My companion smiled and said: "And could you not surround yourself with like beauty and fertility on the earth, and there exercise the rules of life which make a heaven on Mars?"

"The people of the earth seem to be possessed of different natures than these on Mars," said I; "for here all seem to be industrious, and to be prompted by a desire to act for the common good of all, as well as for their own interests."

"You are right," he answered, "and yet their natures were once the same. But natures can be cultivated; and people on Mars learned in the infancy of their race that industry was necessary to their happiness, and to their proper preparation for eternal life; and they learned, too, that the claims of others on God's bounty were exactly equal to their own. They also learned that Mars was given to them to occupy and improve, and to every family was given, for their sole and perfect ownership, all the land which the family can cultivate and thoroughly improve, in proportion to its numbers and its strength, yet not exceeding eighty acres for any family; and they were early taught that they are in honor and in duty bound to cultivate the land they occupy, and to add all they can to the general amount of food, and even luxuries, as well as knowledge and the general happiness, to the best of their power, consistent with their own health, happiness, and good. And, among other

things, they have learned that Mars is the present home of their race, and that it is both their privilege and duty, to make it a desirable home for their posterity as well as for themselves; and that as all received an equal gift from God, it is their privilege and duty to improve the gift by every means God has placed within their reach and power, to beautify and adorn their every personal home to be enjoyed, not only by themselves, but by their children after them. They learned, too, in the early manhood of their race, that the key to all happiness and of their entrance to the true heaven which God has prepared for all the wise and good among his creatures, is both to do and to prepare for others as they wish others had done and had prepared for them; and this simple little rule has been the guide for all actions of the daughters and sons of fair Mars for many thousand centuries. Since you have been on Mars, you have seen none idle, and none who claimed to be more exalted than their fellows, though all are not of equal cultivation. But all are in pursuit of the highest happiness within their power to possess; and they gain that happiness by adhering most rigidly to this rule."

Now it was true, I had not seen an idle person, man or woman, on Mars. All were industrious at proper hours for industry, and all were cheerful at all times. All seemed to take a real interest in each other's good, and all seemed to be moved by kindness in doing all their acts. I could not, therefore, say a single word against what he had said, but I could think, and did think, too; and I contrasted, then and there, the cultivated features and the people of fair Mars, with my loved people and the many neglected features of the pretty earth, and then, turning to my companion, asked:

"Could the earth have been made to show like features

of culture and improvement to those that I have seen wherever I have been on Mars?"

"Yes," he answered, "if the people of the earth, from the beginning, had governed themselves by like motives of goodness and like industry as those of Mars have governed themselves by, the waste spots of the earth would now yield abundant fruits and grains, and Earth's people would rejoice in the richest joys of happiness."

"Why have they not been governed by like rules?" I asked.

"Because," he answered, "they learned to place a high value on things of no real value; because they gave themselves up to selfishness, and to the gratification of their baser passions, and thought them the greatest good; because they cultivated a belief that gold, and silver, and diamonds, and what they consider other precious gems, are more valuable than the adornment of their homes, the cultivation of their minds, and the preparing of their beautiful and fruitful earth for the teeming myriads who were, and are, to follow them. Diamonds, and silver, and gold, and other things which the sons of Earth value so highly, the children of Mars value only for their usefulness, and all these they use for the common good of all; for each inhabitant of every division of Mars is equally interested in every other part, and in every improvement of every other division of the planet; and the greatest emulation, and the highest ambition of every son and daughter of Mars, is to discover some improvement which may add to the delights of home, or which may elevate its whole people to a higher grade of thought, or to a nobler condition of existence; and as a reward for such a discovery, it is heralded to every part of Mars, and the name and location of the discoverer is recorded with great pomp and ceremony on the 'Scroll

of Beneficence,' and deposited in the 'Archives of the Greatest Honor,' in each of the central temples of the seven divisions."

During all this time of talking and thinking, it did not escape my attention that we were rapidly passing over a delightfully rolling country near the base of a grand mountain range; for as we sped along, I was glancing here at a closely shaven lawn on which were evergreens of every variety of hue and form, and there at graceful trees whose broad branches invited to quiet and repose numbers of well-fed animals, cheerful youths, and lovely children. Here were cottages embowered in both flowering and fruitful vines, and surrounded by winding walks bordered with roses, low and high, and trimmed like little trees, and bordered, too, with flowers of every hue which can delight the eye, and whose sweet aroma tickled every sense of sight and smell; while from flower to cultured bush, and from bush to tree, in all directions, flitted gay songsters clad in robes of scarlet, crimson, yellow, emerald, and blue, and white, and black, and rich colors of every grade, warbling sweet notes of joy, and playing with each other with a fullness of delight.

The rider, who during all this time had sat motionless on his winged steed, now raised his hand, and the horse, relaxing his swift motion, stopped.

"Here," said my companion, "we change our vehicles, and ascend the mountain side in those open carriages propelled by swift-moving cables which play beneath the upward way."



CHAPTER XX.

They Ascend the Side of the Mountain—An Endless Cable and Car—An Altitude of Five Thousand Feet—They Approach the Diamond Mine—A Burst of Glorious, Reflected Light—The Mine Described—Immense Diamonds—They use Golden Sandals on their Feet, and put Veils over their Faces—An Immense Mountain of Light being Moved from its Bed—How it was Moved—They follow its Slow Movements down the Face of the Mountain.

WE descended from the carriage in which we had come thus far, and taking seats in a vehicle which stood at a right angle with our former course, were soon rapidly ascending the steep mountain side. The road had been prepared in great perfection and at great expense of labor. Its bed had been paved with plates of gold, nearly meeting at its center, where a narrow space was left, beneath which moved, in endless course, the cable which drew our carriage upward. Along up the mountain's face, even in its deep gorges, where sunlight hardly ever found its way, and on its rounded sides, on terrace above terrace, rising one beyond the other, as far as sight could see, stood cottages and trees, and sweet embowered homes, and in sylvan nooks, more delightful still, if that were possible, than the lovely valley homes through which we had been passing. At length, and soon, we reached an elevation, equal to five thousand feet above the level of Mars' seas, and here we

stopped. Here we again alighted, and, turning to the left, we advanced to the summit of the divide, between two deep mountain gorges. All at once, as we approached the crest, a vision of reflected light burst suddenly upon us, such as I had never dreamed of before, and which my feeble powers can not describe. To me it seemed that ten thousand suns and myriads of reflecting stars would fail to give light of such dazzling brilliancy, and rays so countless in their number. Seventy thousand acres of the mountain side lay bare before us in one vast field of diamonds. Diamonds of every size, from a small pin's head to those one thousand feet in their diameter, there lay in wild confusion; not in the rough form of diamonds when first found on earth, but polished, as if finished by the perfect hand of nature's lapidary. My eyes were dazzled with the sight, beholding which, my quick companion threw a thick veil over my face, and shut out the greater brilliancy of light, and then, covering his own face, said: "Come." We descended a winding staircase, seven hundred feet or more, to the surface of this dazzling diamond bed; and, with golden sandals on our feet, walked out toward the center of the vast gathering of light. At this point, on every side around us, stood immense masses of the sparkling crystals, without break or flaw; but transparent, pure, and perfect, as they had been formed by the great Artificer's hand, except that many had been lifted from their beds by ponderous machinery, which still stood by. This was moved by a power to me unseen, and was now being prepared to move some of the larger gems from their long resting-place, aided by many thousand willing hands of men. Levers and skids, of solid iron, were placed like roadways from the mine to the lower edge of the sloping plain cut in the mountain's side, and toward this point the ponderous crystal mass was slowly

moving. At last it reached the edge, and balancing there, was soon tipped downward, until it lay, like a huge mountain of condensed light, upon a car, whose broad bosom, sustained by low, strong wheels, stood ready to receive it. Then slowly down the broad track, down the mountain side, it moved; held back from too rapid a descent by strong derricks, which slowly unwound their mighty chains, and by the workmen's thousand hands. We followed its slow movements on, until it neared the mountain's base, at which place it stopped beneath a hundred toothless saws, and, being now cemented to the car, the saws were lowered to its upper surface, and the huge gang set in motion.

The saws were placed full six feet apart, and their motion to and fro upon its adamantine face seemed to produce but slight effect upon the huge crystal's bulk. Water and fine diamond dust were fed upon the saws continually; yet, long as we stood and watched their horizontal motion, to and fro, they seemed to enter the pure diamond's surface less than a hair in depth. Near to this diamond mass there stood another—a perfect conic cylinder in form—whose ends alone had been cut down to perfect parallels; and through whose polished sides could be seen a revolving tire, which slowly eat its way from base toward crown, and fed as it eat, with a constant supply of fresh diamond dust and water. I was amazed at all this vast machinery, and these wonderful works of man, and in my astonishment I exclaimed: "What does all this mean, and whence comes the mighty power that drives these immense machines?"

"It means," said my companion, "that the sons of Mars are preparing to erect another temple, to be dedicated, like their other temples, to science, equality, and the ever-living God; which shall eclipse in beauty and magnificence, any of their temples heretofore erected on the planet; and

these slabs of which you have seen the beginning, and the cone which is being prepared for the lofty dome of the more perfect temple, are but the first steps toward the great and glorious work."

"Why, it will take a thousand of their years," said I, "to cut that diamond into slabs, for use in such a work."

"And if it does," he answered, "what are a thousand years, in the history of so intelligent and good a race as are the people of Mars? *They* build for posterity, and for all time; and God honors them who build eternal things, and who cast their love, their light, and knowledge, down the long vista of the generations yet to come."

"Yes," said I, for I did not fully comprehend his remark, "but whence comes the power which moves these great machines?"

"The sons of Mars," he said, "have simply harnessed the surplus waters of the mountain, by gathering them in tubes and causing them to pass through wheels; which being connected with the revolving drill, causes it to revolve; and, acting through a crank upon the framework of the saws, forces them to reciprocate in constant, steady, motion."

"It seems to me," said I, "that it would require almost infinite power to move such ponderous machines as these."

"Is your conception of infinite power, then, so faint," he asked, "as to look upon the puny power which drives these machines as *almost infinite*? How does this power compare with that which holds Mars and Earth in their places? which sustains the several great universes in their orbits? and which whirls them, each with its mighty complement of attendant worlds, in regular and safe rotation, around the great central world and throne of Him who made them all? His power alone is infinite."

As he said this, his eyes flashed with a brilliant light, and his words seemed sharper than the keen edges of diamonds, while his breath was like a consuming fire proceeding from his nostrils.

"Yes," said I, "I knew that it requires a much greater power to keep the planets in their places, and to cause them to move in such perfect regularity, than it does to ruin even this vast machinery; but I have not yet been educated up to a knowledge of *the infinite*."

"I pardon you," he said, "for eighteen hundred years of Earth ago, and until long after I put on immortality, I was more ignorant than you are now; and at this moment, although I have long been in the school of life and knowledge, and have visited God's own central planet, I have but just commenced the great lesson of progression in eternal life; and I know that when you put on your final robes of immortality, and take your place among the blest sons of God, you will soon advance to the point I have attained, and pass quickly on toward a full knowledge of the infinite."

"I can not comprehend you now," I said; "but I hope that in the near future I may understand all these things, and more; for my heart yearns for everlasting life, and for a knowledge of its mysteries."

"Poor sons and daughters of the earth," he said, "how gladly would my brother have led you onward to a full knowledge of your loving God, and ye would not, but sought his earthly life instead; and yet, through some other medium, and perhaps through this, God will lead man up to a full conception of himself and of eternal life; to perfect happiness in joyful homes on earth, and to a perfect knowledge of his great and glorious works, and his eternal home, which he has prepared for the enjoyment of all his intelligences. In some state, he preserves them all:

because all were made by him, and are creatures of his love and care."

During all the time we were at the mine, and after we left, many shriveled spirits of the earth loiteringly had followed us, and just now two among them said: "We claim this diamond mine, and the gold mine from which you came, with all their extensions, their angles and their dips;" but I thought they were insane, and spoke not to them, nor did my guide; but he said, "Come, for the day is now far spent, and we must return to the central city and temple of this division to repose; for to-morrow you have much to observe, and I perceive that you are already wearied with the remembrance of what you have seen to-day;" and so saying, he led the way to the place where our carriage, with the horse and his rider, stood.





CHAPTER XXI.

Riding Back to the City and Temple—Reflections of the Spirit—Enchanting Scenery—Cottages—Winding Walks—Rose-bearing and Flowering Trees, Tasteful Arbors, Festoons of Vines, etc.—The City and Temple Illuminated.

WE entered the carriage, and soon were speeding on toward the beautiful city and temple, which now seemed to me much like home. Our road homeward was far different from that by which we came, and the interest and beauties of the country through which we passed were multiplied. My powers of description are very feeble, and were my hand not guided by an intelligence superior to my own, I should never attempt to present a picture, even in outline, of any portion of Mars which I saw; but my companion commanded me to write of what I saw; and where my pen fails to present the beauties of a planet which no words of mine alone could paint, the imagination of those into whose hands this book may come, must supply my defects; for I am without imagination, as well as of weak powers of description, except when influenced by the noble spirit who took me with him in spirit to fair Mars. Even with his aid, I am unable to present in proper form, the beauties, or many of the principal features, of that interesting planet; for though my companion informed me that

many of the planets in our system, even, were far more interesting and beautiful than is Mars, Mars is truly delightful to any one who has spent fifty-seven years upon the earth.

A fair description, at least, of one of the seven divisions of Mars ought to be given, because a contemplation of its beauties, which have been mainly produced by the energy and genius of its people, may afford a valuable lesson to some of the children of the earth. On each side of our golden-paved way were walks, now filled with people of all ages and both sexes, all eager and happy in conversation and in play; while cottages, in front of which were verdant lawns dotted with evergreens, beds of flowers; winding walks, bordered with rose-bearing and other flowering trees, vines climbing over tasteful arbors, and often hanging in graceful festoons from tall trees; and in the near distance cultivated fields bordered by low hedges and by ornamental trees; orchards laden with blooms, and with ripe fruit; dense forests, planted by the hands of man in former ages, in weird wildness and beauty, all combining to make a picture more like enchantment than reality; and yet ever changing, and ever presenting new scenes of beauty and of grandeur more magnificent than the last, presented a landscape which none on earth could comprehend, except those who, with cultivated minds and taste, have visited tropical climes. And yet these scenes, as we passed them in rapid succession, were far more lovely than any seen in tropical climes on earth; for there its ferns, its broad-leaved plantains and fruitful bananas, its graceful palms, and its towering trees with clinging vines and flower-capped tops, are the result of earth's prodigality alone, and unaided by intelligent man; while here, on every side of our paths over Mars, whether seen from its temple's tops, from its mount-

ain summits, or from the valleys themselves, all these things have been arranged by men of intelligent and cultivated taste; and while nature has done her part with lavish goodness, man has directed her prodigality in channels not less weird, but with wonderfully more artistic taste.

Added to this, its flowers are multiplied in numbers, in beauty, and in fragrance; and its animals and birds are of a beauty of grace and form, not conceived of by many of the inhabitants of earth; and to all this was added the joyful and mellow voices of universally cultivated men, women, youths of both sexes, and little children, whose sweet songs mingled with the melody of the birds, and whose happy faces seemed to say, "We rejoice that Mars is our home;" for no sorrow seemed to impend over any of the people. All seemed eager to add to the happiness of those around them, and all added their share to the general enjoyment.

It was far in the evening when we drew near the city. From the temple's upper story and from the mountain's tops on each side of the broad and beautiful valley, came clear and delicious light, like the light of the full moon when it shines vertically on earth through a clear and transparent sky; and as we sped up the broad street of the city toward the temple, a thousand smaller lights, issuing from diamond lamps, mingled their beams with lights from every corner and story of the temple, and cheered us to the home of our host, and, as we thought, to repose.





CHAPTER XXII.

Festivities in the Temple—An Invitation to Attend—The Little Procession—Reception—Music—Short Addresses by the Host, the Companion Spirit, and our Spirit—Great Applause—A Grand Ovation—Music—The Great Organ—Another Mistake of our Spirit—Delicious Light in the Temple—Music Indescribable, yet Beautifully Described—The Dance, in Companies, Squads, and Battalions—March to the Great Feast.

OUR host, however, had not intended early repose for us; for soon we heard gay music, and the hurried tread of men and women on the streets, and soon our host, appearing at the door, said that a brilliant company awaited us and his household in the rotunda of the temple, and requested me to join my companion and repair with himself and family to the place named for our reception. On leaving the room, my companion greeted me with a genial welcome, and said, cheerfully: "It seems that the labors of the day are not yet ended; for I am informed that the good people of the city have prepared an agreeable surprise for us, and are now waiting for us and our host in the rotunda of the temple; and by his request we will join him and his family, and repair to the great court."

Our host and his graceful wife had already appeared, followed by their intelligent and well-dressed sons, arm in arm with their four sisters, most lovely girls, and at our

host's request, my companion and myself joined the small procession immediately behind him and his wife, and in this manner all proceeded to the temple. A few families were still gathering from different portions of the city, as we approached the stately edifice. As we entered, the thousands who had gathered within the vast circle arose, and the rich notes of many thousands of trained voices joined with the deep-toned organ's trembling notes in welcoming my companion and our host to the noble entertainment, for I could not think that any part of an ovation so sublime was intended for myself.

We stood enraptured on the platform to which we had been led, until the music ceased; and then the master of the ceremonies advanced, and facing toward us, said: "This ovation is given by the central city of our division as a slight reward to him, and to his family, who have excelled all others in extending kind courtesies and greetings, and who have done the greatest good, to the worthy strangers who have honored our division with their presence; and to whom, with him and his family, we extend our heartfelt welcome."

Our host and his family, and we all, bowed our acknowledgments, and then our host, in a clear and mellow voice which could be distinctly heard by all the vast assemblage, said:

"Not to me, nor to any of my family, is this recognition due, but to the intelligent and good strangers themselves alone, who honored us with their confidence and presence."

Being thus alluded to, my companion spoke, and said:

"Not to me is any part of this ovation due, but to the desire of my companion here to visit the generous people of Mars, to examine the works of their hands, and to see the perfections of their beautiful planet."

Now I felt that I was expected to say something to the listening people, but I had never addressed so great a number, and I felt greatly confused; yet with an energy of voice of which I had deemed myself incapable, I said to the assembled multitude:

“Not to me, not to me, but to my generous companion, and to our noble host, are all these honors due; for my companion came to me as I lay on the beautiful green sward, and said, ‘Which, of all the planets of this universe, would you like most to visit? for I am sent to take you there;’ and I said, ‘Our next outside neighbor, Mars.’ He brought me here, and our noble host and his family gave us a most generous welcome.”

Then the people arose upon their feet with loud huzzas and waved their handkerchiefs and hands, and the great organ pealed out its grandest notes; and for many minutes the scene before us was like a vast sea of life, welling up from the deep fountains of overflowing hearts. For a time the cup of their delight seemed to be more than full, and their joy was extreme; then all was still again, and all were seated.

I now observed, for the first time since our entrance, the arrangement of the audience. We had entered upon that side of the temple and auditorium, opposite to the place where the great organ stood. The seats for the people had been placed in the form of an amphitheater on two sides, facing toward the center, toward the organ, and toward the platform which we occupied. The pure diamond fountain occupied the center of the vast circle, yet intercepted no part of our view; for the pure waters which at most times are pouring upward within it, were now shut off, and turned partly in another direction, beneath the temple, and in part upon the great wheel which operates

the bellows of the mighty organ. The organ itself has eight hundred keys and one hundred stops; and twenty-five players, perfect in the accomplishment, gave voice to its rich music. Light—soft, perfect, and clear—came from the upper story of the temple, and from lamps at each story below, falling through the great arch like a genial halo, upon the heads of all in the auditorium, and giving to each countenance therein the radiant features of an angel. Silence prevailed. The only noise that was heard was the suppressed breath of each person as it floated out on the air, or was inhaled by each one of the multitude.

All at once, there seemed to be faint, but delicious music, far behind and above me. I held my breath and listened attentively. It seemed like a chorus of ten thousand voices, at the extreme verge of space; and in the north-west quarter of the heavens. Then a responsive chorus, but slightly louder, seemed to come from the heaven's opposite extreme; and the first were still; while soft and joyous notes rolled onward toward us from the south-eastern extreme. Then both extremes joined in a prolonged, exultant shout of gladness, of mirth, and joy. I whispered to my companion, close by whose side I sat: "Is that the music of the angels?" "It is much like the music of the angels," he whispered in return, "for it is angelic music, but this is produced by the sons and daughters of Mars alone. Listen yet longer, and you will be more delighted still."

Again, from the far south-west, the air seemed to come laden with delicious sounds. Nearer and nearer yet they seemed to come, and yet their distance away seemed almost infinite. Then from the far north-east came many thousand other soft voices, like the faint echo which encourages hope and leads on to brighter joys; and this was followed by a

chorus in which all quarters of the heavens joined, and with which a responsive echo from the illuminated vault above us mingled. Three times were all these delicious choruses and these responsive echoes repeated; but each repeated time seemed nearer than the last, and then—all was silent, breathless expectation. Then from the inner summit of the temple burst peals of wild harmony most terrible, yet sweet in their magnificence. Had all of heaven's artillery broken loose at that one spot the effect of their sudden and harmonious sound could not be more indescribable; then all was still.

Again from one quarter of the heavens a sweet anthem rose, and was responded to by the opposite extreme; and then another joined, and then the other, and then all these were answered by responses from the temple's dome; and then all were joined again, as if the universes sang for joy. All this continued and was repeated for a time, each anthem sweeter and each chorus grander than the last, until, at a signal given, the notes of the one hundred octaves of the organ were let loose, the gates which held back the waters from the fountain were reversed, and the crystal flood sprang upward with a mighty, rushing sound. The audience arose, and joined their united voices in the song; waved their white kerchiefs and marched around the vast circle, in pairs, in companies, and battalions, like a vast army with its banners. The deep foundations of the temple shook, and all Mars seemed to tremble with the rich volume of sweet sound, while the heavens themselves echoed and re-echoed back the glorious melody. And yet all this surprising harmony of delicious sound was but the music of the grand organ's wonderful notes, mingled with well-trained human voices. Handel's Messiah was inspired, and Mozart and Beethoven drew their inspiration from the heavens; and all

of earth's inventors and gatherers of music have been fed by hands of spirits sent from God.

The music ceased. The seats which before had occupied the great circle were placed, some around its sides and some conveyed to other rooms, within the temple; and now the performers at the organ played a livelier tune. Young men and maidens arranged themselves in pairs upon the floor, while elder persons occupied the seats around its sides, or stood conversing in quiet nooks, and watched the gentle movements of the dance which was now progressing.

First, a grand march was played, and the dancers moved around the great circle in squads, companies of eight, of sixteen, of thirty-two, and of sixty-four, successively, each advancing in perfect time with the music of the organ; and, at a signal given, these all wheeled into different lines in their continuous march, and in this manner they all passed three times around the circle and then broke into companies of eight, and happiness seemed to sit enthroned upon their joyful faces. Keeping perfect step with the enlivening music the octants moved in graceful circles, each on their chosen space, until at another signal all seemed of one accord, and, with harmonious motion, whirled like living wheels over the vast surface of the floor, and when the music changed were all in line of march, as at the first, again. For one full hour this pastime was enjoyed in its delightful innocence, and then, at a word given by the master of the ceremonies, the dancers wheeled into companies of twelve and formed twelve lines, twelve fronting in each line, and thus they marched into the twelve great rooms of the lower story of the temple. In each of these, long tables had been set, and a great feast had been prepared and placed thereon; of cakes, of jellies, fruits, and meats, and an exhilarating

drink like coffee; but water, pure as crystal, was the favorite there. I had no desire to eat, and remembering that my companion had said I had much to observe to-morrow, I said to him that I desired a little rest; and he with me, and the family of our host, withdrew from scenes I never thought to see again until, a disembodied spirit, I revisit Mars. Then, on a delicious bed, I found repose.

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CHAPTER XXIII.

Starting for the Greater Temple—The Lovely Morning—Children, Birds, and Winds—The Farewell to the Host and his Family, and the Adieus of the People—The two Winged Horses and their Rider—They Cover our Spirits with their Inner Wings and Move on with Great Velocity—Glimpses of Scenery—Direction of their Travels—They Arrive at a High Mountain Range—Travel through a Tunnel—"In what Place in the Wide Domain of God is Hell?" our Spirit asks—His Companion Answers—A Comparison of the Spirit's Answer with an Orthodox Description of Hell.

I AROSE the next morning refreshed, as by a sweet sleep, and passed from my room into the garden in the rear of the house. My companion had preceded me, and around him were gathered all the children of the household. Birds were chanting their sweet melodies in the leafy trees, and flitting from bush to bush, and often alighting on the children's heads, for they knew no fear, and they seemed to partake of the kind fellowship of the children of Mars. The morning sun was gilding the eastern horizon, and clothing the mountain tops with golden light. Soon he arose in all his brilliancy, gladdening the cultured face of the beautiful planet, and enlivening the hearts of its generous people. A gentle breeze wafted from the north, and played with the glossy tresses of the children, and stirred gently the leaves of the trees, bringing with it the sweet

notes of the beautiful songsters which favored other parts of the city. As I appeared, the children ran to me with outstretched arms, and clasping my fingers, reached upward for a kiss. How much like some fair homes on Earth it seemed—and such might all homes be on Earth, if its dear people would make them so. And this is to be my last morning in this lovely place, thought I, until the time shall come when I put on my final robes of immortality and eternal life. O, blessed time!

Soon the bright face of a beautiful maid appeared, and with most perfect grace invited us to the morning meal. We followed her, and soon all were gathered at the table. Short words of thankfulness to God, the fathersaid, and short were the questions asked and answers given; for my companion had informed our host that we were this day to visit the division third away from there, and join in commemorative services to be given in the central city and the great temple of that division. The breakfast being finished, all repaired to the family room, where, with moistening eyes, a farewell song was sung, in which all joined, whose melody will never be forgotten. Then we shook hands with our host and family, and said, "Farewell, and peace be with you," hurriedly, and passing out, we entered a carriage which stood before the door, much like the one we occupied the day before, to which were harnessed two winged steeds with rider on the right; all impatient for the journey.

The whole city seemed to have turned out to witness our departure. The park around the temple, and on each side the broad streets, were densely filled with people, who, as we passed slowly along, greeted us with blessings, waved their white handkerchiefs, and wafted to us their kind

wishes and adieus; all of which we acknowledged with inclining head and wavings of the hand.

Soon we were without the city, and our speed increased until we moved onward with a velocity almost like thought. The outside wings of the horses alone were used as aids to their swift feet in forcing us onward, while the inner ones were extended backwards, forming a covering high over our heads, and serving as airy rudders, in directing the onward motion of the horses.

The road we took was that which leads from the great northwestward door of the temple. As I glanced along it from beneath the mighty wings which were outstretched above us, its tree-embordered avenue, straight as an arrow's flight, seemed to unite in the far distance, and become a single point of green; while far beyond stood a mountain barrier, high we soon saw, but, in the distant perspective, seeming to sustain the extreme of the rich, transparent pink which surrounds the planet.

After crossing the beautiful river which washes the city's base, we found ourselves in a country similar to that through which we had passed the day before. Like closely shaven lawns, on which were ornamental and useful trees; like vine-embowered cottage homes; like winding walks bordered with flowers; like broad-leafed and pretty plants; like fields of waving grain; like industrious men and women, and like playful, joyous children, greeted us on either side, as we sped in swift flight over the golden road, though but a quick glance on either side could be given, and then all were passed by. On, on, we sped, and at each glance I cast, the scenes were changed. Beauties were added to new beauties, and sublimity followed on magnificence like the quick changes of the kaleidoscope. Time, or inclination, for talk here, there was none, for the ever-changing succession of

beautiful and absorbing scenes, constantly riveted my thoughts, and seemed to paralyze my tongue.

At length we drew near the eastern base of the western range of mountains, whose terraced sides, like those of the eastern range, were covered with delightful cottage homes, surrounded by shrubbery and lofty trees both on the rounded outlines of the mountain angles presented to us, and in the deep gorges receding from our view. Suddenly we turned an obtuse angle on our road, and entered the mountain at a right angle to its general direction. The tunnel, like the former one described, was twenty-seven feet in diameter, and diamond lamps placed at stated intervals, and connected by wires which extended along its sides, made the tunnel as light within, as was the day without. Here the horses folded their broad wings by their sides, and on they sped. Many vehicles we met passing swiftly in the contrary direction, but in the course we were moving, our carriage led the van; each took the right-hand track. On, on we sped, past the quick-succeeding lights, which seemed themselves to fly past us, instead of our passing by their stationary points in our fleet progress. Soon I was lost in reverie of deep thought; and as we traveled on, I turned to my companion to solve the question which had risen in my mind, and asked :

“In what place, in all the wide domain of God, is hell?”

He started up, and almost laughed outright.

“*There is no PLACE called hell,*” he said; “but canting priests of many kinds and names, who falsely claim to have been called by God to stand between him and their betters, being not half instructed, do oft proclaim there is a *place* called ‘hell,’ and with false tongues portray the personal agonies of them confined therein, and slandering the good name and character of God, they falsely say that in the

morning of eternity, God prepared *such a place*, in which to punish them who love him not and obey not his laws. But God is love, and all his attributes are merciful and good; and it would grieve his loving heart to know that any of the creatures he has made, must forever writhe in fire, and breathe the fumes of brimstone, or suffer otherwise in any *place* in eternal bitter torment.

“True, my brother spoke, while on the earth, of hell and of eternal sorrow, and of such a state I wrote on Patmos; but all our words were figurative, and meant to portray the sorrow of the minds of those who, neglectful of the opportunities which God had given them, to elevate themselves, and learn of him through revelations of his will by medium of good men whom he chose, rushed madly on in pursuit of corroding gains, and fleshly lusts; and daily violated their sense of right, their nature’s laws, and the genial laws of love which God has given, to bind all men on earth to him and to their fellow-men. *Hell* is within the hearts of them who neglect their glorious opportunities; who violate their nature’s laws; who will not heed the voice of conscience, the seed of which God placed within all human kind; and those who do not unto others as they wish others to do to them.”

“But will not evil men, and they who commit crimes and do other wrongs, be punished?” I asked.

“Yes; just as certainly as that they live, and that eternally; but not in a *place*, for all will progress in the eternal life, but not all alike. There, before the murderer’s face, he will see the agonies of his murdered victim throughout all that life; the thief will see the goods he stole; the seducer, the sorrowing victim of his lusts; and the vile will see forever there the things he loved the most on earth; drunkards will see their cups, and wish to taste, but the phantoms will elude their grasp; and vain, conceited fops and all

other criminals will see themselves as others see them who desire to look at them, or pass their way; liars will be classed with liars there, thieves with thieves, conceited ones with those of like conceit, murderers with murderers will be, and all of these each with his like; nor can any one of them come upon the central planet or near God's throne, but they will live and ever see their folly and their crimes before their faces, and will regret their wrongs; but *the punishment of each will be proportioned to his willful wrong*. Each evil deed that men of their own volition do, will bring a just and proper punishment; and each will hold them back in the grand progression of infinity, where all desire to move swiftly on toward a full knowledge of God's perfect laws, his ways, and works, and love; and the good do rapidly progress, and with constantly increased delight, while they who in the flesh were evilly disposed, and followed evil ways, from folly or from choice, work their way upward with great labor, and constantly regret that in the flesh they served not God, nor loved their neighbors, who in the eternal life so far advance beyond them."

"Why did you and your brother use figurative terms while on the earth, to convey the law of rewards for worthy actions, and of punishment for evil in eternal life?" I asked.

"Because," he said, "the people of the earth at that day had fallen into great ignorance and superstition; and, like many of this day, had wholly forgotten God; and the spirits, the mediums of whose wills we were, desired to arrest their thoughts, and to bring them back toward the true light of God, from whom, when my brother came, all faces on the earth were turned; and they knew that strong figures and strong words alone would rivet their attention and cause them to look toward him."

"You speak of priests who falsely claim to be called of

God, and who falsely use God's name; will you explain what you mean by this?"

"Many of those who stand within the church, and daily pray long prayers and mumble words the people do not understand, are whited sepulchers; spotless in outer garb, but within full of deceit, and rottenness, and all uncleanness. With their tongues they claim to speak the will of God, and to enunciate his laws; and often they pretend to stand between God and the people, who are far better than themselves; and, further, they pretend to interpret the will of the Most High to them, and then to lay before God the hearts of his true worshipers; meanwhile they themselves freely indulge in fleshly lusts, hiding the falsehood of their lives from men alone—for their every act and thought, is telegraphed to God's throne and is recorded in vivid characters on the eternal tablets there."

"What will be the condition of such men in the eternal life?" I asked.

"Lower in the scale are they than those who foolishly deny that God exists; for while God has pity on the atheist's blindness, whose misguided reason fails to see God in any of his works, he has but contempt alone for them who pretend to reveal his will and do it not. The atheist may, eventually, come within sight of God's great central planet, and even of his throne; but these hypocrites he leaves to wander on the outskirts of his broad universe forever. Priests who are faithful, and who dare and will cut themselves loose from false teachings in ruts and grooves, and who dare to speak the truth and stand by it, and truly work with zeal for God, receive a glorious reward, and are, like Luther, Swedenborg, Wesley, and William Penn, honored by God, and of his mighty love receive substantial proof, in homes which he has fitted up for them upon his central

world. Now all this goes to show that hell is a condition of the soul, brought on by the sufferer's own evil acts and will, and is their sure penalty, while heaven is the converse of the same."

I can not avoid contrasting the foregoing description of "hell," as given to me while riding with him through one of the great tunnels of Mars, by one of the most amiable and loving spirits in the great beyond, of the condition of humanity in the eternal life, with the opinion taught in most of the churches of to-day, which opinion is most happily and forcibly presented in the following extract from a sermon recently delivered and printed:

A BRITISH CLERGYMAN'S DESCRIPTION OF HELL.

"We know how far it is to the middle of the earth—it is just four thousand miles. So if hell is in the middle of the earth, it is four thousand miles to the horrible prison of hell. Down in this place is a horrible noise. Listen to the tremendous, the horrible uproar of millions and millions of tormented creatures, mad with the fury of hell! Oh! the screams of fear, the groans of horror, the yells of rage, the cries of pain, the shouts of agony, the shrieks of despair, from millions on millions! There you hear them roaring like lions, hissing like serpents, howling like dogs, and wailing like dragons! There you hear the gnashing of teeth and the fearful blasphemies of the devils. Above all you hear the roar of the thunders of God's anger, which shake hell to its foundations. But there is another sound. There is in hell a sound like that of many waters. It is as if all the rivers and oceans of the world were pouring themselves with a great splash down on the floors of hell. Is it, then, really the sound of waters? It is. Are the oceans and rivers of the earth pouring themselves into hell? No.

What is it, then? It is the sound of oceans of tears running down from millions of eyes. They cry forever and ever. They cry because the sulphurous smoke torments their eyes. They cry because they are in darkness. They cry because they have lost the beautiful heaven. They cry because the sharp fire burns them. The roof is red-hot. The floor is like a thick sheet of red-hot iron. See, on the middle of that red-hot iron floor stands a girl. She looks to be about sixteen years of age. She has neither shoes nor stockings on her feet. The door of this room has never been opened since she first set her foot on this red-hot floor. Now she sees the opening. She rushes forward. She has gone down upon her knees upon the red-hot floor. Listen! She speaks. She says: 'I have been standing with my bare feet on this red-hot floor for years. Day and night my only standing place has been on this red-hot floor. Sleep never came on me for a moment that I might forget this horrible burning floor. Look at my burned and bleeding feet. Let me go off this burning floor for one moment—only for a short moment. Oh! that in this endless eternity of years I might forget the pain only for one single moment!' The devil answers her question: 'Do you ask for a moment—for one moment—to forget your pain? No, not for a single moment during the never-ending eternity of years shall you ever leave this red-hot floor.'—From a sermon by Rev. Mr. Furniss.

Can it be possible that men can and do believe that a wise and loving God, and the Father of our spirits, delights in such unmerited misery as is portrayed in the extract above given? Shame, shame on such doctrines as portray our good and great Father so slanderously, and in so hideous and revolting a light. Hence let such teachings be "*anathema maranatha*."



CHAPTER XXIV.

Speeding toward the Greater Temple—Glimpses Caught of Merry Children, and Happy Men and Women—Their Velocity is like the Hurricane—A City is Seen, and beyond it a Sea—They Reach the City—Curious Craft and Curious Propellers for Crossing the Sea—They go over it in an Air Vessel drawn by Swift-winged Birds—The Fish in the Sea—The Fishing Bird darts like an arrow and brings up his prey—Conversation as they Sail through the Air far over the Sea—How the Land and Water of Mars are Divided.

SOON, it seemed to me, we emerged from the mountain's other side. Here again the horses' wings were spread, and their swift movements drew us onward. Here, too, rich fields of grain; large trees whose tops were crowned with flowers; ornamental ferns, and broad-leafed palms; trees laden with luscious-looking fruit; embowered cottages; lovely gardens; merry, laughing children, and happy men and women, could be glanced at for a moment, and then vanished like an angelic dream; to be succeeded by other dream-like glances quite as beautiful, and all like visions of enchantment. On, on we sped, with wild velocity. So swift we moved, and smooth, that all things else seemed to move the other way; and oft I felt as if a mad hurricane were sweeping all things by us, and leaving us alone. Objects before us in the far distance were soon reached and left behind, a backward vision far remote, and then not seen.

At length a large city was before us, and beyond a vast expanse of water; pink in color, its surface seemed; but in its great depths, a purple. Our rider slackened the motion of his steeds, and through the broad streets of the golden city we moved more slowly; yet on we passed until we reached the water's edge; then stopped.

A thousand boats, both small and large, were on the ocean's face; to which were harnessed immense aquatic birds, that used both wings and feet, to draw the vessels to which they were attached. To some, a single bird gave headway, to others two; and, to the larger ones, twelve hundred birds, in twelve strong lines, were harnessed. All these things were new to me, and passed all former thought. Near by where we alighted, and just above our heads, *aerial* inverted boats floated, half filled with some light fluid; and were held down by mighty ropes through rings attached to Mars' firm surface.

Beneath them were suspended neat, light, and fragile-looking basket cars, but large, and capable of holding many persons; and before each one stood trains of birds, powerful of wing and limb, all harnessed one before the other, and impatient only of inaction. The tallest man could walk erect between their legs, beneath them; and their broad wings, when spread, extended seventy feet or more in compass. Meekly they stood and obeyed the voice of men, and watched each action of their owners. When their director pointed one way, that way they quickly moved; and if he waved his hand the other way, they moved that other way as quickly.

I looked some moments at the sea. Innumerable fish were sporting in its waters, some gayly leaping above its surface, and others playing in schools beneath. Bright-sided silvery fish, and fish of golden hue, and white, and

red, swam in circles round and round, and in straight lines, then suddenly changed their course, and some in tangents, some at right angles, sped in swift velocity.

"Henry," said my companion, "we will pass over the sea by way of the inverted boats, that being the quicker way; for we have yet seven hundred miles to go before the sun reaches his high meridian."

I started; for this time was the first that he had called me by my given name, and since we left the tunnel, no word had passed between us; for each had been too much absorbed in contemplation of the varied scenes we had so swiftly passed that morn, to think of aught else, and our destination. At least, so it was with me.

"Pardon me," I said, "I am too full of sights and thoughts for speech; but command me. Where shall I go?"

"Pass into this suspended carriage," he said, "and soon we will be on our way again."

I obeyed, and my companion following, the gauzy door was closed. The master of the birds and our strange craft was at his post, almost at the bow, and giving word to his aerial propellers and to those who stood on soil, our vessel was released, and soon we floated in the soft air, above the city and the sea, drawn by two hundred swift-winged birds, tethered in two equal lines, one above the other; each distinct line tied to each at many points, and all moving as one propelling force.

As we rose above the city, its broad streets, its lovely edifices, its wide-spread parks and lawns, and its many thousand pretty trees, presented an exquisite sight. Mingled with these, were myriads of Mars' sons and daughters, gayly tripping to and fro; and well-fed animals, and gay-

plumaged birds, filled up the scene, and marked with beauty and with life, this city of the plain.

Our course was westward still, and the genial sunlight, still falling from the east, revealed a thousand boats, or more, moving in all directions on the briny plain beneath us. Some seemed on pleasure bent, alone; and their winding course—drawn by but few aquatic birds—and their mirthful voices as they rose from tiny-looking decks, showed that their object was attained. Others moved onward in straight lines, as if intent on gaining some far distant port; and the broader decks of these, and their great length, drawn by twelve lines of birds, one hundred in each line, betokened commerce with some distant part of Mars. To many, sails were added, and the winds aided the strong-limbed birds, and increased their onward course; while others still seemed to be propelled along the trackless way by some power invisible to outward sight; yet on they swiftly moved.

Often the waters were disturbed by schools of fish, leaping above the surface; and often, too, birds of great size and length of wing, darted downward from their aerial balancing, like arrows shot from a swift bow-spring, and disappeared beneath the water's face; and rising soon again, shook their bright feathers, and revealed, in their sharp claws, fish of goodly size; then off they flew toward the far-distant land.

“How much of Mars' surface is covered with water?” I asked my companion.

“Nearly one half,” he answered, “but it is so divided,” he continued, “that all its lands are moistened with rains and snows in their season. Only a small portion of the lands of the planet lie in those zones, which, on account of the climate, are undesirable for human habitation.”

"How are its lands apportioned among the people?" I asked.

"You must have forgotten what I said about this a day or two since. Memories should be cultivated, for they are given us for use, and should be exercised," said my companion; "but, as I told you, all the productive lands of Mars are divided among the people in such a way that each family has all that its members can cultivate, and no more; while the remainder is held as the common property of all the people; but any part of this may be occupied by any who will cultivate it thoroughly."

"How is it known where the unoccupied land can be found?" I asked.

"In the great temple of each division maps are kept of the whole surface of Mars, and of each of its seven divisions; and copies of these maps, which show faithfully where all the unoccupied lands of the planet are, and the qualities of all, are kept in each of the smaller temples of learning in each of the divisions."

"But if the lands are at a great distance from those who wish to occupy them, how are they reached for settlement?" I asked.

"The people of Mars do not forget," he answered, "that they are all children of the same great family, and as they know that God gave to each of his children an equal inheritance, and intended he should receive it, each one upon the planet contributes from his stores an equal sum to a perpetual fund, for increasing the habitable domain, and for extending to that domain all the benefits which are enjoyed in the most favored parts; and thus, as in all other things, they do to others as they desire others to do to them."

"This will do very well on Mars," I said; "but I think

it would be very difficult to induce the people of Earth to adopt so beneficent a plan."

"Yes, it would be difficult; and yet it would be just; and if like rules prevailed on Earth as prevail on Mars, it would yet be done. Who gave to kings their massive wealth and power? which, of themselves, are dross and things without value. Kings are but men, and station adds nothing to their worth; and if it could, then they would be less than men. The poorest man who lives on earth, if his heart and acts be right toward God and toward his fellow-men, is, like a true American, the equal of a king; yes, greater, far, than the proudest king who lives, and fails to honor God, and to respect the rights of all his fellow-men; for all good men on earth, however poor, are more than equals of unjust kings." He stopped a moment, and then continuing, said: "Who gave to one the right to rob his fellow of that which God intended should be equally enjoyed by all? Who gave to man the right to enslave his fellow-man in any form, and to deprive him of the just reward of his own industry? Earth is far behind Mars in the great onward stride of intellect, in sense of justice, and in government; but the time will come on earth, when all of equal virtue and like mental culture, will stand before each other acknowledged equals; and when they who stand lowest in fortune's scale, will be recognized as having rights equal to those of the proudest king who dares to live. The time will come on earth when all true men will be like kings; when kings become like common men, and acknowledge and obey the laws made for them by their equals, the great masses of the people. And even now, in God's sweet heaven, thousands of earth's poorest ones, in means, are held in higher estimation by

their Creator, than the proudest king, or rich man, who ever lived on earth."

All this was said, and more to like effect, as we moved swiftly on over the sea, and through the pink atmosphere of Mars, toward the great central city and the temple which alone are located on Mars equator; for the capital cities of its other six divisions are situated three north and three south of its equatorial line. On, on we sped, with a velocity which far outstripped that of the winged steeds upon the planet's surface. Swiftly the quick wings of the noble birds cleft the air, their necks outstretched far in advance, as if eager to reach the land, now seen in the dim distance far before us. On, on we passed through the divided air, as if our chariot were a hurricane, and soon the dim outline of land, appeared a continent in size, which from our aerial height I viewed with wonder and delight. It was a land through which many rivers flowed, and creeks and brooks and little rivulets in all directions; a land, I thought, fit for the home of God himself, and blessed by him, and yet a land occupied by millions of industrious men; a land once in nature's wildness, like Amazon on earth, but now reduced to happy homes of teeming millions by industrious and persevering hands. Far in the distance lay a mountain range, whose sides, terraced like those before described, or tried to be, were clad in perpetual verdure. Seventy miles inland from the sea there stood a city on a hill, full three thousand feet in height above the level of the sea. Toward this the owner of the birds which drew our airy car directed their flight, and on they flew. Beneath us and around on every side were small cultivated fields, around which verdant hedges stood, and trees—low they seemed from our great height—and climbing vines and masses of bright flowers; and in each field a pretty cottage stood, with walks and

flowers in front and rear, and shady bowers and quiet nooks, where children played with dogs and lambs and with each other, and where parents on this day of rest—for it was their seventh day—wandered arm in arm and kissed each other as if it were the first morning of their love. On each side, the streets were bordered by fruit-bearing palms, bread-fruit, and durion, and orange trees, and olive and other kinds of trees showed their rich, ripe fruit, their deep green leaves, and their ever-fragrant flowers; and before each home appeared a clean-cut lawn, and trees of ornament and use—for fruit and beauty vied with each other for superior excellence.

We now approached the great central city of this division, which, my guide informed me, is twenty-one miles from side to side in all directions, and whose base is washed by clear, flowing river streams at every point. Around this vast city our little craft was floated in a circle by the swift-winged birds, that we might estimate its size and see its twelve main streets, which led, like that first described, from the portals of its great central temple.

Coming round again to its eastern avenue, they slowly flapped their wings, and brought us down again to Mars' fair surface, just within the park which surrounds this glorious edifice. Here ten thousand hands were outstretched to receive us, and glad voices rang out on the air in welcome greeting to the sublime city and temple of this great division. As we descended from the car, one advanced to us and said: "We had expected you a little sooner, for we were notified that you were on your way. Come and refresh yourselves at my house a while, and at a proper time we will repair to the great room within the dome of the temple, where many thousands will be gathered to receive you, and pay due honors."

"No honors are due to us," said my companion; "for I have come only to show my friend what the people of Mars have done, and what they do; while his object he will explain."

"I am ashamed to say that curiosity and a desire to know something of Mars' noble people alone, led me to ask my companion to bring me here; but such is the truth, and I do not regret my coming," I replied.

"Well," rejoined our host, "leave all these things to us. All you have seen and heard on Mars, was sent us on the wires which encircle the planet and reach every inhabited part; and in this central city we will try not to be excelled in hospitality by our neighbors; but come now with me." He led us to a palatial residence—as all are in this city—where, on downy seats, we drank the sweet wine of Mars, and ate of its delicious fruits; while from another room came music sweeter than angels' dreams.





CHAPTER XXV.

The Paradise and Temple—Size of the Park around the Temple—How the Paradise is Divided and Constitutes Twelve Delightful Parks—Its Beautiful Grass, Walks, Arbors, Flowers, Trees, Shrubs, Fruits, Fountains, etc., Surpassing Description—Old Trees, when they Decay, Replaced by New—Belts of Flowers along the Promenades—Trees forming Great Arbors—The Great Temple—Its Size—Its Golden Reservoir and Floor—How Water is Supplied—Immense Walls and Pillars of the Temple—Its Great Beauty—Its Ornaments—Its Organ—Its Dedication—Its Seven Stories—Its Telescope.

AS soon as we were refreshed a little, we were invited by our host to proceed by a circuitous route—and thus avoid a multitude of people—to the park, or the twelve parks, constituting the one great park which they call “paradise,” surrounding the temple. This park, which includes the main street which surrounds both paradise and temple, is two thousand and one hundred feet in width, from side to side, through every measurement; and is divided into twelve sections, or smaller parks, like that surrounding the other described temple, by twelve streets, or broad ways, which lead to and from the twelve main entrances of the temple. Each of these twelve sections of the paradise is covered with a short, silky, tough, and curly, but beautiful grass, which covers the main ground-work of the parks with a carpet of rich green. Through this, winding paths

are laid, in forms agreeable to the eyes and taste of the cultured people there; while the walks are bordered on each side by flowers of every variety of hue; and here and there are long arches which extend from border to border of the walks, covered too with flowers of great beauty and delicious fragrance. Within each section is a large fountain of pure and living water, and five smaller ones are set, in the form of a star with five points, around the greater, whose perpetual streams, after rising to a great height, fall again into basins at their several bases, and there supply invigorating life to myriads of pretty fishes of great variety of form and color, and then, in part, are used to slake the thirst of the luxuriant vegetation in the park, while their surplus runs in sewers open in the parks, down to the rivers which surround the city. These transparent waters, clear as crystal, are first brought beneath the base of the temple from the far distant mountains, in pipes of gold, like those before described; and are thence distributed according to the people's needs and tastes, by means of cunning contrivances there fixed in the globe-like reservoir, by the most learned and skillful engineers of Mars.

In each section, too, are arbors, great and beautiful, which are formed by planting trees in circles, and interlocking their vast branches overhead; while the space between the trees, one side alone excepted, is thickly set with climbing, fruitful, and flowering vines, whose tendrils cling round lattice-work of gold, and to the trees. Thus the inmates of the arbors are surrounded by an almost impenetrable canopy and wall of verdure, fruit, and flowers. Among the trees, some are many thousand years of age, and their tops extend far higher than the lower story of the temple, and their broad branches interlock one hundred feet or more above the broad walks of ingress to and egress from the

noble edifice. Besides these greater trees, many smaller ones and of more youthful age are found within the park; for when an old tree dies and is removed, to bless the sons of Mars in other ways than furnishing ornament or shade, they replace it with a young tree of its kind, and nurse it with tender care; and this has been done on Mars for many thousand centuries.

Along the outlines of each section are two broad belts of flowers, each variety being segregated from another, between which belts are also narrower walks for promenades; and then come low, verdant hedges neatly trimmed, spaces only being left for entrance to the park, or exit from. Within, broad-leaved bananas grow, pine-apples and palms, bread-fruit and durion, and the tree of life; oranges there grow, and apples, peaches, and pears, cherries and plums, and luscious figs and grapes, plantains, and mangroves, and many other rich and delicious fruit-bearing trees are there in great abundance; and all things else of taste, beauty, and nutrition which men desire, and which grow on well-cultivated and genial soil.

The temple is a marvel of magnificence, to any one of earth; at least it was to me. Its broad base spans two thousand and one hundred feet in every direction at the surface, and is seventy feet broader on all sides at its own base; and its foundations, I was told, were laid one hundred feet in depth under all parts of the great building. Within its base are chambers lined with gold, and a hollow globe of gold, which forms a vast reservoir for waters which are brought from the mountains far away, in golden pipes. Above the reservoir, within the temple's base, is placed, on various floors, the strong machinery which operates the great bellows of the organ, and propels the elevators upward through the temple's lofty stories, and to swing its

ponderous doors. Then comes the golden floor of the great temple, the floor of its lower story, grand of itself in the great space it occupies. The walls of the first story of the temple occupy twenty-one feet of space; and its greater rooms are two hundred and fifty-eight feet long within. The pillars at its several corners are forty-two feet in their diameter, and their height is three hundred feet from base to top of capital. Its walls are polished iron, and its pillars are overlaid thick with gold, while lilies of silver, with golden petals and leaves of emerald, together with flowers carved from huge rubies, with petals of silver and flowers of garnets, opals, and diamonds, form its massive cornices. Its great windows are vast diamond plates, two hundred and seventy feet in height, and one foot in thickness; but the width of each is thirty feet only; one window on each side of the mighty doors, and a shorter and broader one above each door. The doors of this, and of all the great temples on Mars, swing outward as they are opened. Each succeeding story upward of the seven stories of the temple, above its base, is three hundred feet in height; and its diameter is one hundred and fifty feet less than the diameter of the story on which it stands; and the height of the temple's summit from the ground is equal to the diameter of the lower story. The inscription over the great entrances of the temple is:

“DEDICATED TO OUR FATHER, GOD; TO THE CULTIVATION OF MIND IN A KNOWLEDGE OF HIS SCIENCES; AND TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF MARS; FOR GOD GAVE TO ALL HIS CHILDREN EQUAL RIGHTS, AND ALL ARE BY HIS WILL ENTITLED TO EQUAL PRIVILEGES.”

The great central room or court of the temple has a diameter of one thousand and four hundred feet. It has,

also, a great fountain in its center, and a large platform, beyond and upon and behind which the vast organ stands.

The second story of the temple is of gold, having its pillars and cornices of polished silver, ornamented with many curious devices of birds and animals, and of men, women, and children, in great perfection of form, and beauty of execution. The third story is of silver, and its pillars and cornices are of emerald, very beautiful; while its fourth story is of emerald, with pillars and cornice of ruby. Its fifth story is ruby, with pillars and cornice of opal; while its sixth story is opal, with pillars, capitals, and cornice of diamond; and its seventh story is of pure diamond, and its outer diameter is twelve hundred feet and its inner diameter is six hundred feet. The top of this temple also is surmounted by a telescope of great dimensions—its object-glass being one hundred and forty-four feet in diameter, and its tube a diameter of one hundred and sixty feet in its greater part; it also is attended, day and night, by twelve women and twelve men, all learned in the varied intricacies of astronomy, and all calculations pertaining thereto. The telescope is directed toward any point desired by means of machinery propelled by the waters in the basement of the temple. No persons are permitted to look through this telescope, except those whose lives have been pure and without spot or blemish, or those who have conferred such benefit upon the people of Mars, through some valuable discovery of some law of God not known before, or those who have acquired such superior attainments in knowledge of the sciences as cause them to be recognized as among the most worthy and good of all the people.

The greater rooms of the temple are used for instructing the sons and daughters of Mars in all branches of learning and science; and the smaller ones as rooms for committees

of the parliament of the planet, which convenes once in seven years, and remains in session twelve weeks only; and all laws framed by such parliament are submitted to the whole adult people of Mars for their adoption or rejection, the vote being taken thereon by the people one year after such session. The result of such vote is communicated to a council of forty-nine aged men, who are selected, seven from each of the seven divisions of the planet. If the plurality of two thirds of the people are found to have approved it, the law in form becomes a law in fact, and all the people of Mars obey it; but otherwise it is declared by the council to be inoperative and void. The parliament consists of four hundred and ninety members, in addition to the council, and convenes in one of the great rooms of the lower story of the temple. The rotunda is used as a school-room for the children of the city who reside within three miles of the park which surrounds the temple; and for great convocations of the people.

All these things which were not seen by us, were explained to us as we wandered through the paradise; after which our host took us back to his residence, where we again partook of refreshments of fruit, cakes, and the delicious wine of Mars, in company with our host and his beautiful wife and sons and fair daughters, while we listened to music sweeter than the songs of birds, mingled with the sound of gently rippling waters.





CHAPTER XXVI.

Music in the Great Temple—The Procession of Men and Women in Front—
The Smaller Procession within the Greater—Columns of Beautiful Women
and Majestic-appearing Men in the Great Hall—Statuary and Paintings
—Winding Galleries—Our Spirit takes a Seat in the Gallery—His Com-
panion and their Host on the Platform in Front of the Great Organ—
Description of the Organ and of the Interior of the Temple.

WHEN supper was finished, the shades of night were fast gathering around; and we were invited by our host to repair to the rotunda of the temple in company with himself and family, who at once formed in twos, and placed us next in rear of the father and the mother. As we passed out of the door, we found long lines of intelligent-looking men and handsome women drawn up on each side of our pathway to the temple, who greeted our little procession with acclamations of glad welcome, which we recognized by uncovering our heads and bowing affably. Music was ringing in the air, but I saw not whence it came; but I saw the long columns of women and of men moving side by side in grand marching lines, first toward the temple's entrance, where they wheeled, and then marched toward us once again, twenty abreast; on each side of a dividing space of twenty feet in breadth, which led from near to our host's door, up to the temple's entrance on that side. Between these mixed lines of beautiful women and majestic-

looking men, all dressed in magnificent array, at the word "Onward," given by our host to us and his, we onward moved, until we came within the immense portal of the temple; during all which time, we were greeted with glad shouts of welcome and good cheer by the grand army on each side. Within the spacious hall leading from the temple's entrance to the rotunda, stood on each side of our pathway, six hundred of Mars' fair daughters; and behind them stood—also on each side—six hundred of Mars' gallant sons—most noble-looking men—all facing toward our line of march; while behind these stood sculptures of women and of men, matchless in perfection and in drapery, and on the walls on each side were hung paintings of their greatest benefactors, men and women, and even children, all seeming to be endowed with actual life.

Behind us, those who had greeted us without, wheeled into squads of ten and followed us, keeping perfect time with the soul-inspiring music. Onward we moved until we came within the circle of the great auditorium. Here, on the left, I saw a winding gallery, which gently coiled around within the rotunda on its sides, up to the inner base of the transparent diamond story of the temple far above, whose great electric light, and the smaller lamps within, shed soft, effulgent beams on the gallery's broad platforms, from the giddy height of eighteen hundred feet above the main audience and floor.

As we entered the rotunda, my companion said: "You could obtain a better view of the great audience if you took a place high in the winding gallery; but if you do, when I call you, come."

I acted on his thought as suggested, and took a softly-cushioned seat close by the oval banister and upon a platform, which I thought was full seventy feet above the great

multitude below, where I could overlook all parts of the vast court, except the part beneath me. Here, I observed that men and women sat with uncovered heads; the men with close-cut hair—yet not too close—and the women with their long hair put up in every shape of tasteful form, which added elegance to their loveliness. Children, too, were there, all well-behaved, pretty, and good, from whose fair faces shone rays of intelligence, and expectation of delight to come.

Here too, as in the former temple we had seen and visited on Mars, at the center of the rotunda stood a transparent conic cylinder of pure diamond, around the now silent fountain, whose top reached seven hundred feet above the floor, while reaching upward seventy feet higher still, appeared the summits of the greater pipes of the great organ of the temple. The organ was very great in its dimensions, and before its broad line of keys sat players, thirty-six in number, whose skillful hands elicited its sweet, majestic music. Of a young man who sat near me, I asked, "How many keys has the organ?" and he answered: "Two thousand five hundred and ninety-two keys, and four hundred and thirty-two stops; and when all is still, and the doors of the temple are open, some of its notes can be heard in the extreme parts of the city;" and I believed him.

In front of the organ, on an inclining platform, sat one thousand selected singers, women and men; and the trained voices of these directed the voices of the four hundred thousand others who occupied the floor and the winding gallery of the mighty temple. The platform is immediately in front of the organ, and the one thousand trained singers and many others, including my companion and our host, sat upon it, while I sat over on the opposite side therefrom.

When the great multitude was seated, and all was silence,

a man having mixed gray hair and a white beard advanced to the front of the platform, where stood a golden pedestal ornamented with emeralds, garnets, and rubies, and opening a great book which lay thereon read aloud beautiful words, of which the substance was much as follows, for I can remember the substance only:

SONG.

“Rejoice, O ye people of Mars, and shout unto God with your voices and with great joy.

“For God, the most High, only is great. He only is king over Mars; he loveth his people with a father’s love; he careth for all the children of Mars.

“He gave to the children of Mars, for inheritance, an excellency of lands; and fruits, and grains in their season, he giveth us for our labors.

“He talketh with the people of Mars through his messengers, and he delighteth in the incense of praise from their hearts.

“Sing praises unto God, for he is our king; sing praises unto God, for he reigneth over Mars.

“Sing praises all ye people, for our Father reigneth over us, from the throne of his holiness.

“Rejoice, O Mars! for God is the Father of thy people, and thou art their inheritance here.

“‘Sing praises, O my people,’ saith God. Praise him in dances, with the organ, and lute; and rejoice, all ye people, for ye are the children of the Most High.”

When he had read this he closed the book, and the thirty-six musicians played upon the organ, and the one thousand leading singers, and for one fourth of an hour, all the people, joined in singing an anthem, so delicious in melody and so wide in scope, that the memory of it even yet rejoices every

part of my spirit, and lifts me up towards the indescribable melodies which gladden the ear of the great Infinite from all parts of his universes.

Then again the man came forward and offered words of thankfulness to God in his own behalf, and in behalf of all the people of Mars, that their lot had been given them in so pleasant a place, and that he had preserved all the people as his own. Then again the organ was played and the trained singers alone sang, while the people all listened to the glad and joyful sound. When the music ceased, our host advanced, and addressed the people for fifteen minutes in a most gracious, pleasant, and instructive manner, and closed his words by referring to my companion; whom he presented to the assembled people, with many words of esteem. My companion excused himself from addressing them at length, but spoke a few words of encouragement and praise, because of their love for each other, and of their faithfulness in adhering to the rules of life, light, and the means for advancement which God has given them; and closed his words by saying that he had brought with him to the temple a friend, for whose benefit as well as his own, and for their own enjoyment, he asked that the players at the organ, the singers, and all the people, join in executing one of their most delightful pieces of music.

Now I was glad that my companion had refrained from alluding to me so particularly as to turn the attention of the immense host upon me, and I felt thankful to him in my heart, for I now perceived that it was his goodness, and his regard for my feelings and my pleasure, which had led him to suggest that I take a position in the winding gallery, rather than to place me with himself on the platform in the immediate presence of all the people who were assembled in that great auditorium.

While I was thinking of these things, and wondering that the music did not commence, I thought I heard the rumbling of thunders, deep in the bowels of Mars. Soon a sound came like the voice of winds in the trees; and the short chirping of birds was heard on the air, and then the sounds seemed to fade away, far outside of the temple. Now heavier thunder was heard, which seemed to shake the very foundations of the temple, the light within became dim, and heavy gloom hung over all the assembly. Suddenly a quick flash of light illuminated every face in the assemblage, followed by a quick and sharp report, as if many rifles had burst at once in the temple's dome; and then all was still again. Then peal on peal of muttering thunders seemed to come from the body of the planet, and mingle with peal on peal of heaven's artillery; while flash on flash of vivid light, followed by immediate darkness, alternately brightening and then enshrouding in sudden gloom, as quick as thought, the whole interior of the vast edifice, and the faces of its precious occupants. Then a dash, like the sudden fall of heavy drops of rain, was heard; and this was quickly followed by the sound of falling waters, as if the clouds of all the heavens had burst, and dropped their watery elements upon devoted Mars. I have heard Niagara's thunderings on Earth; have seen the vivid lightning's constant flash along the verdant Platte; have listened oft to the fierce whistlings of the Rocky Mountain and Sierra's storms; but never, on the earth, have I heard and seen, at once, such wild sublimity of sight and sound as I now heard and saw combined. I held my breath in terrified suspense, while the slow minutes passed. At length, the muttering thunders were heard in the far distance only, and the fall of pattering rain grew less and less. A gentle, steady light, slowly increasing in power, stole through the

temple. The cheerful chirp of birds was heard; and soon the whole vast temple seemed to be filled with their delighted notes.

"That must have been a most terrific storm," I said to the young man who sat near me, "and I am glad that it is over. Are such storms common here?"

He smiled in spite of his innate and cultivated politeness.

"My dear sir," said he, "there has been no storm. All this has proceeded from the organ, even to the representation of lightning, and the falling of waters, the chirpings and the songs of birds, and the thunders far and near; for the players on the organ control every avenue and kind of sound, and use them as they desire."

I was astonished, and but half convinced, and still I listened tremblingly. Soon I heard, on the far western mountain top, a maiden's faint song of joy. This was answered by a manly voice, coming from the far eastern sea-shore. Again, from the far north, there came a woman's trilling voice echoing the first song heard, and from the distant south there came an answering song from man's loving heart. Then the four voices joined in chorus and mingled in soft notes, far above the temple's top, words of great joy and peace. Then all was still. Again many sweetly-mingled voices came from the far east, and were answered by as many from the temple's summit, more than two thousand feet above us. Then from the west came other voices, and the north responded. Then from the distant south and the far east responses came in glad acknowledgment; and then came a wild burst of joy from all, the east, the west, the north, and south, and those upon the temple's top, mingled as one in songs of joy. Again the west began, and then the south, and then the north, until three times the glad songs and rich choruses were repeated—then all was still again.

Now, far up in the temple's dome, a little bird trilled joyous notes, and many other birds joined in its chorus; and then a little child stood on the temple's top and sang a song to which the birds and angels from the far heavens answered; then other children's voices joined, and sang sweet words and notes, rivaling in melody the responsive birds and angels. Then the angels called from every part of heaven, and birds and children answered. Nearer and nearer the sweet voices came, until they seemed to be just over the paradise around the temple, while the children's joyful notes and the songs of birds mingled in sweet accord. Then all came within the temple's dome, and slowly wound their way down the vast galleries to the greater auditorium below—or so it seemed. Then the light of one hundred and ninety diamond, electric lamps, which were placed along the winding galleries from base to summit, and all the light of the seventh story, burst in splendor upon the scene below, and all the people rose with one accord, and, together with all the organ's tender notes, joined in the wild and joyful song, and for one quarter of an hour, music, rich, tender, and pathetic, and music bold and strong, rang within the temple and mingled with the rapturous light, and mixed with the heavenly anthems sung by the spirits of heaven, such music as was never heard on Earth, and not often this side of heaven.

During this time, the seats were all removed from the great circle below, and its thousands gayly marched in couples, squads, and companies, in battalions and in regiments, and in brigades, and in one vast army, wheeled and marched, in every form of movement, over the mighty floor, all keeping time with feet, and hands, and waving handkerchiefs, and streaming wands, with an exuberance of life and joy, unparalleled on earth.

While this grand scene proceeded, and the organ's notes and voices of the people ascended, like fragrant incense, before the Most High, my companion fixed his eyes on me, and with his right hand uplifted, with loud and ringing voice said, "Henry, come!" and I, startled at hearing my name pronounced by my companion, and forgetting for the time that I was to appear as a son of Mars, at once proceeded through the vacant air, and over the circling multitude beneath me, until I stood by my companion's side. Until this time we had been clad as sons of Mars; but at this moment we were there and then transfigured, and appeared before their wondering eyes, the spirits that we were, each for the moment clad in the costume of his native land on Earth; he in the loose trousers and flowing robes of Palestine—the home of his earlier day—and I, in the fitting dress of an American—much like the dress of men on Mars; while from the face of each, radiated a pure and silvery light.

The music and the motion ceased. Then, all at once, a shout arose from the assembled host: "A spirit! a spirit! Spirits of Earth and heaven!" and wildly waving arms and handkerchiefs, and wilder shouts, joined with the organ's upward-rolling notes and tongues; and again all mingled their multitude of voices in one grand chorus, as again they wheeled and marched around the great circle of the auditorium.

"Farewell, ye sons of Mars, and ye daughters fair," said my companion. "Farewell for a little time, till we can come again; *both* in full-fledged immortality. Until then farewell." And waving an adieu, he took me by the hand, when circling round and round, among the many thousand spirits gathered there, upward we rose above their heads into the vast arch, until we reached the platform of the upper story's

base, full eighteen hundred feet above the floor. On this we perched a moment, and looking down again, we saw the eager feet of many of Mars' sons and daughters winding their way upward toward us along the winding gallery, waving their hands, as if they would prevent our leaving their hospitable home. At his command, I joined with him in bidding them "Adieu;" when passing into a niche, we upward still ascended, until we reached the temple's top, where stands a telescope of mightiest power yet made on Mars, attended by its ever watchful guards.





CHAPTER XXVII.

The Companion of our Spirit asks the Guardians of the Telescope to Direct it toward Earth—They do so—He springs into the Basket and invites our Spirit to follow him—Both Take a Peep at the Earth through it—The Guiding Spirit takes Bearings for Earth, then speaks to our Spirit of his Home on Earth—Home, thoughts of Home—They spring into the Air to finish the Circumference of Mars—Scenery Passed on that Last Trip—A Beautiful Valley Nestling in the Mountains.

MY companion spoke to them. “Will you direct the telescope toward Earth? For within twelve hours my companion and myself must make two thirds the circuit of Mars, and hie us hence to that next planet within Mars’ orbit around the sun.”

As quick as asked, the noble ones obeyed my companion’s wish, and pointed the telescope toward Earth. My companion sprang into the basket and bade me follow. I did; and looking through, saw a great blue globe, which seemed to be a mile or more from side to side, whirling in space all unsupported; while its attendant moon, seeming like a little ball attached by an unseen string to a central point, swung slowly by it. To the unaided eye the earth appeared as a star of the first magnitude; for it was near us, while its moon looked like a pin’s head lost in space. When my companion had taken his bearings for earth by it, and

other stars which he saw in space, he spoke cheerfully to me:

"Come now, my friend, and we will make, on spirit wings, two thirds the circuit of this lovely little world; and then take flight in the bright sun's light toward your home on earth."

Home! home! How sacred and how sweet the word! Home, where life first was given; where light first met the eye; where first the voice of love was heard; where first my childhood's feet tottered on the smooth floor, and on the softer grass. Home, where first my mind began to grow, and where my young spirit first learned of itself, of earth, of heaven, and God. Home, where she whom God gave to me in her fresh womanhood, has reigned queen of my heart for more than one third of a century of Earth's years. Home, where she who gave to me her life and happiness in charge, gave also, as a pledge of love, noble sons and daughters; three of whom are yet on earth, and three in heaven. Home, where my children are; and where Josie is, and will remain, till she or I shall put on final immortality. Home, where they who appreciate its worth, prepare themselves for that more glorious home in the far beyond; where God, the Father of us all, awaits our coming, and receives us with a Father's love.

And yet all homes on Earth are not equal—no, most are far inferior—to the homes on Mars. Here good will, kindness, and universal love prevail; and all here listen to and obey the divine monitor within. There selfishness and hatred are the rule, and envy and fierce strife, the chief motive springs of action. I wonder if any other of God's worlds are peopled with selfish, sordid, and unkind beings like many who disgrace his Earth; for if there be, how great must be their final sorrow when they compare the misery they

gain, with the happiness attained by people who live like those on Mars; and yet I *know* there are a few on *Earth* who have correct conceptions of their high privileges, and of eternal life.

Quick as the lightning's flash these thoughts passed o'er my spirit, as at my companion's word we sprang upward through the transparent pink of Mars' pure atmosphere until we gained an altitude for easy flight; whereon we took westward wing to meet the planet's revolution on its axis. As we pursued our westward course, our way for a great distance lay over valleys, hills, and dales, dotted with pretty homes surrounded by parks and gardens, whose neat walks and winding paths were bordered with gay and lovely fragrant flowers; while here and there, through vistas of the trees, clear, sparkling lakes and streams were seen, whose faces gleamed like the bright stars above, rendering each view we took most picturesque and enchanting.

Soon we approached a high mountain range, whose bold outlines, terraced as it was, presented a picture of beauty, sublimity, and grandeur, which pen can not describe. Grand, tall old trees lifted their heads up toward the stars, while younger ones, emulating their growth, reached far upward too; and younger still nestled in the deep shades of both. Here, too, as in the valleys far below, were pretty lakes, both small and large, whose clear waters often washed the feet of trees which stood and mirrored themselves at their placid sides. Toward the mountain's base, gigantic oaks, beeches, and maples, magnolia, and tall cypress trees spread their broad branches outward; and as we rose to higher altitudes, these gradually gave way to lofty redwoods and pines, to cedars, hemlocks, spruce, and firs, and all *coniferæ*; and these to birches, larches, and other hardy trees, such as are often seen on earth; and yet higher still

a dense growth of hardy shrubs, lichens, mosses, and ferns, with here and there patches of snow; then broad belts of pinkish snow, and still above all these, eternal mountain peaks, which seemed to mock the puny efforts of the clouds to climb to their mighty altitudes; while, running here and there through all this mountain wildness, we saw most lovely animals of every form of beauty gathering their dainty meals from the mountain herbage. Deep down among the mountain peaks, little below the line of snows, lovely valleys nestled, covered here and there with carpets of soft grass, a brilliant green, on which curious cattle, sheep, and horses lay at ease, or fed beside quaint-looking birds on the nutritious herbage; and here and there delightful homes, surrounded by all things which delight the sight and make homes happy, nestled in the shade of giant rocks; and fruit and ornamental trees, midst arbors covered with fruit-bearing and with blooming vines, and with all varieties of delicious and sweet-scented flowers.

Had I descriptive powers, I would paint—in words—one of these lovely mountain vales through which we passed in our rapid flight, and stopped a moment there. Its general outlines were oval in form—longer north and south than from east to west—its length, say thirty miles, and in breadth twenty. From near its northern end two smaller valleys extended, like broad arms, outward from the main body right and left, a distance of ten miles each in length, and five in width, to the base of the steep mountains which stood around on every side; and, from near the southern end, two others, like the first, extended into the mountain range. Bold streams of water, sparkling, clear, and cold, wound quickly down, in graveled beds, each limb of the valley, to a lovely lake, five miles or more in length, and

three in width, which nestled near the center of the greater valley. Within the lake, thirteen lovely wooded islands lay, and washed their feet in the pure waters, and held upon their pretty breasts a sweet cottage home, and sometimes two or more. From the lake a larger stream, deep and broad—a river in its size—found its way westward, and escaped through a wild mountain gorge, whose walls, in many places, seemed three thousand feet in height above the river's rippling surface. The valley was well cultivated in all its parts, except where tasteful parks and grasses grew, for shade and sustenance of animate life on land. Around the borders of the lake a line of lovely houses stood, surrounded with gardens of delight, by pretty parks and lawns, all facing toward the transparent water. On every side of the valley the mountain sides were covered with rich foliage of thrifty, growing trees, from between which often peeped pleasant painted cottages, and their attendant buildings, until, far upward, six thousand feet or more, the everlasting snows forbade their higher climbing; while far above, cold, dark-gray rocks appeared, lifting their heads toward heaven; and around these the winds of eternal winter blew.

I often wished, when I gazed on this and on like scenes, and on some faces that we saw on Mars, that I had the powers of some great painter of the earth, either now or yet to be, that I might put on canvas their gorgeous beauties; but I have not even words. All these things I could observe only at a glance; for we were pressing westward, and stopped a moment only in our flight to view the pretty scene.

Our way lay down the gorge, through which the clear and noble river sped. Here, not many miles away from

the sweet valley we had left, we found huge mason-work obstructing the river's way. A dam of solid, wedge-shaped granite, bolted with rods of gold, was bedded in its path, and in the granite walls upon each side, like the huge arc of a great circle, with its convex part up toward the coming stream. From each side of this great dam large pipes of gold were led along the deep-cut mountain walls to the open mountain sides beyond; yet notwithstanding these, a mighty river still leaped over the dam, and soon, not far below, plunged headlong down full three thousand feet precipitously into a deep basin at the mountain's feet. At first it was a mighty sheet like broad Niagara's famed horseshoe on the earth, but as it downward fell, its particles divided and became as *Yo Semite*, a misty veil; and yet its fall into the deep basin far below, sounded like constant, mighty thunders; and Mars trembled from the shock it felt.

Our way was westward still, down through the deep and zigzag gorge; and looking up, I saw the mountain walls three thousand feet above us on each side; and looking down three thousand feet below, I saw the waters of the peaceful river now move onward toward the valley and the sea. At one place through which we passed the huge walls met overhead, and embraced each other with a mighty hug, their faces pressed face against face for five hundred feet or more; and from their stupendous height looked down conjointly on the now placid stream below: a bridge no man could dare to imitate at such a height and breadth of span. Within this arch and in this mighty curving gorge, spirits were congregated in many thousands to see this noble and majestic work of God; for they delight in God's grandest works and views, as well as cultivated spirits in the flesh on earth.

Gently passing through the spirit convocation, we coursed our way down the adamantine canyon thirty miles or more; then over the broad valley which lies westward of the mountain's base, and across the great sea upon its westward side, and, wafting our swift flight above another vale, at last we stood again upon the mountain's top, where we had first alighted—on the planet Mars.





CHAPTER XXVIII.

The Spirits take a Last Look at Mars, bid it "Farewell," and start in Upward Flight for Earth—They reach a line where Mars and Earth Attract them Equally, and Rest a while on the Dividing Line—"Did God make Boundless Space?" our Spirit asks—The Answer—In what Man's Highest Happiness Consists—Earth might Become a Paradise like Mars—When that Time will be—Remark of a Spirit who Overheard the Conversation—Their Continued Flight toward Earth—They pass near the Desolate Surface of the Moon—The Earth in Full View, and their Rapid Approach to it.

HERE we stopped, and stood and looked around a while on every side, and took a breath preparatory to our longer flight; but, as soon as rested, we said a kind "farewell to all Mars' scenes and to her good people," and then sprang with upward wing toward Earth, in the yet broad sunlight, and, with mighty will, pressed on our upward flight until we found ourselves where Earth and Mars bore down upon us with equal gravitation. Here, we paused awhile, and looked toward the fair planet we had left, and then toward earth, and all around, on every side, in vacant, boundless space. "Did God make boundless space?" I asked. Until now, no word had been spoken since we had left the planet Mars; for we had struggled upward with great labor until now against Mars' strong attraction; but here, upon the summit of attraction, betwixt Mars and Earth, my tongue

found utterance, and I soon learned that my companion's tongue was also loose.

"Space? no!" said my companion; "for space, like God himself, is self-existent, and eternal."

"Could God destroy space," I asked.

"No! God could not destroy it, because it is self-existent; but he could destroy the consciousness of space in all his creatures."

"Would he do that," I asked.

"No; because that would destroy a source of happiness to all his creatures, in whose happiness he delights; and he prefers to extend their sources of enjoyment, instead of destroying, or even narrowing them."

"In what do you think the highest happiness of mankind consists?"

"First, in cultivating a true knowledge of God, by studying his works, and obtaining a knowledge of the laws by which he governs and controls all things; by recognizing their obligations to him, and rejoicing in his fatherly love and goodness; second, by making their homes neat, pleasant, and delightful; and third, in obeying God's will and wish; in cultivating pure thoughts, and using pure words; and in thinking and doing pure things only; and in thinking of, and speaking, and doing to all others as they wish all others to think and speak of, and do to them. If these simple precepts were obeyed by all on Earth as they are obeyed by all on Mars, Earth would become, like Mars, a paradise, and all Earth's people would become fit associates for the pure spirits who obey the commands of God—his glorious and loving angels—who delight in his presence."

Here he waited for a time, while I thought of what he said, then, after a time, he added:

"Yes; men should do kind acts and speak kind words

to each other; should wish well and be respectful to each other, for all are equal before God; they should love the aged and the poor, and aid them to spend their pilgrimage in happiness and in peace; and they should be earnest in acquiring all useful knowledge within their power; should always seek and speak the truth; should injure none by unkind thoughts, or words, or acts; and should treat parents and all others with affable respect, as do Mars' people."

"Will such a state of things ever exist on Earth?" I asked.

"When men adopt and maintain among themselves the rules of action and of thought which prevail on Mars," he said, "or when they cease to worship gold and power, and without hypocrisy adopt the rules which God gave them through my brother as his medium, this millennium will come upon the Earth, toward which we must now commence our downward course, as gravitation lies, far through the broad domains of space; for we are past Mars' special jurisdiction, and Earth is the body which now attracts us most."

Many spirits had gathered round us as we talked, on this dividing line in space, between the earth and Mars, and listened to my companion's words; and, as we started down, some one among them said: "It is a fruitless task, I think, to try to wean the sons of men from their golden god; for many spirits there are now, so weighted down by their love for the glittering dross, which, like an anchor, holds them there, that they can not get away from earth, but flounder round in darkness, fear, and filth, from year to year and century to century; while others there, appear to be wholly blind, and can not see a single thing that God has made; but these last are they, who in the flesh denied there is a God, and now, while they still live, he leaves them there in their deep blindness, and only lets the poor fools know

‘there is a God,’ by hearing others praise him, and rejoice in heaven, in happiness, and eternal life.”

We heard him through, though who he was I know not, nor did I inquire his name; and then we turned our course down toward the earth, which all the time appeared to grow in size. In our swift downward flight we passed across the broad diameter of earth’s moon, on whose desolate and unwatered face we saw no living thing, for none was there; because “at one time a greater curse befell the once beautiful and fruitful moon, than ever fell upon the earth; since which time no thing in flesh and blood has lived upon it, and even spirits pass it by in sorrow, fear, and awe.” So my companion said, as we crossed the track of its swift-swinging orbit in our flight toward Earth, on which now we saw seas, and continents, and islands, all in blue and green; and soon we marked its mountains, bays, and rivers, valleys, and broad and smaller fields. But as we came toward Earth, almost as swift as thought, I asked my guide: “How often does the moon revolve upon its axis?” “Once during each time it moves around the earth from new to new,” he said. And then he stopped our swift flight ten thousand feet or more above the surface of the Earth, whose face seemed then to me to be almost as sweet as Mars, which we had left so short a time before.





CHAPTER XXIX.

The Spirits on Earth again Close by the Body of our Spirit—His Companion tells him to Occupy the Body again—He is somewhat Loth to do it yet, and Talks with his Companion, who tells him he must Occupy the Body again, and Write what he has Seen and Heard on Mars, and Publish it in a Book—Our Spirit Objects, but is finally induced to Promise—The Conversation between the Two Spirits.

ON Earth at last again we stood, close by the spot where my body lay seven long days before; and though life remained within, because another spirit had occupied the form during my absence, still it seemed hardly like myself, and I was almost loth to occupy it again, and before I did my companion said:

“Now, you will occupy your body for a time again, and write all you have seen and heard on Mars, and on the way thither, and this way again, and publish it in a book, that all the people on the lovely earth may know who their near neighbors are, and how they live, and what they do.”

“What! must I write all I have seen and heard on Mars?” I asked.

“Yes; all you can remember,” he answered.

“But men will not believe what I have seen and heard,” I said.

“That will be their fault, and their misfortune, and not yours,” he said; “but many will believe, and you must write.”

"How shall I write the book?" I asked.

"Write first a connected narrative of what you saw and heard, and of our flight, as you remember it, in course, in different chapters; and then write what you observed in casual ways; and publish all you write."

"But more than half I saw is, even now, forgotten; how then can I write it all?"

"I will aid your memory, and help you write, as I aided you to go where man never went before and returned to earth again."

"What shall I do or say, if men do not believe?"

"Do nothing, and say naught but this: 'There is the record of what I saw and heard. Believe or not; but, if not, go yourself and see;' and say nothing more."

"Well, I will try to write as you direct," I said, "but I would like to ask, when will you come again, and take me with you?"

"When you put on immortality—say thirty years or so from now."

"I would like to visit Saturn first."

"Why not visit heaven? You can."

"I'd rather visit Saturn for a month, and come back here to Earth again, than be in heaven a hundred years. The balance of eternity is long enough, alone, to spend in heaven."

"When do you wish to visit Saturn?"

"Within a year after the sons of men show proper appreciation of what I have seen on Mars," I said.

"And if they fail to show such appreciation, when would you wish to go?"

"Then, not till my blessed Josie and myself shall put on final immortality, and I, with her, take my final flight to realms beyond the grave, do I desire to visit Saturn, and thence upward wing my airy way in her sweet company,

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along God's grand highway to her and my eternal crown, and home of joy. But if Earth's daughters and her sons shall love to read and know what I have seen and heard on Mars, and wish to learn of Saturn too—what Saturn is, its people, customs, laws, and rules of action, and of life; then, if you will, I should like to visit there, and bring back knowledge ere the day when my loved wife and I shall put off our final dress of Earth, and put on immortality and life eternal."

"Well, wait in patience; for I now perceive that many thousand men and women of the Earth, will love to read and know of what you have seen and heard on Mars; and if my brother wills, I will come again and take you hence through Saturn's lovely gates, and guide you there. But I would more gladly take you farther still; even up to the great central planet, and to the throne of God; yet there I can not take you now, until you put on final immortality."

"I would rather go to Saturn first, and then come back to earth awhile, than go so soon to heaven, for from there I may not wish to return again."

"I will ask my brother, when I go, and if he approve, you then should visit Saturn, and return; but in love, I warn you that Saturn is much like a great prison house; three fourths in light and shade, alternately, for many of Earth's years; not like the pretty Earth or the lovely Mars; but more like a fit abode for baser spirits of Earth, or other planet, who love darkness more than light, because of evil deeds and choice."

"What is your brother's name?"

"His name is Jesus! He was called 'The Nazarene,' on Earth; in heaven, and by good men, the Prince of Peace. He it was, who put on immortality on the cross, and forgave his murderers there. Mary was his mother and my own. He,

through his mediumship, and God, his father, was called the Son of God, and is so now. His spirit was of God; his flesh was man; and for his patient suffering in that, on earth, Jesus is now exalted by his father—who is the father of us all—above all principalities and powers on earth and in the heavens; and is appointed JUDGE OF ALL THE EARTH.”

“Could such a miracle, then, be, that God should fructify the womb of woman, and she bring forth a child, one half offspring of God himself, and one half her own?”

“Yes; for it was necessary that God should have a medium of perfect purity and love; that men might learn his will, and love for them; and his desire for their happiness and final good. But is that a miracle as great as that when God, from dust, formed man, and from man himself, formed woman for his mate? No, not half so great; for here, woman already lived, in obedience to God’s law of generation; and the shadow of God’s spirit hand did fructify her womb, and she brought forth a living child—a perfect man—and true Son of God, who now, as a reward for his mediumship, is crowned King of kings, and Lord of lords.”

“I fear,” I said, “that you may think me rude, but may I ask your name?”

“My name is John. Jesus is my elder brother, upon my mother’s side. Joseph was my earthly father’s name.”

“What? Are you that John who leaned upon the bosom of the great Master? Who wrote on Patmos? Who revealed a liquid hell of brimstone, and of fire? and that beautiful Jerusalem, the city of the living God?”

“Yes; I am he. I wrote in strong figures by command of God, whose medium I was; for then the earth was so far sunk in ignorance, idolatry, and sin, that ordinary words were all unheeded, and the mental agony and blindness which men suffer in eternal life, if unforgiven while in the

flesh, could not otherwise be properly impressed upon their ignorant minds; for they could not understand that hell, both then and now, is mental agony and blindness, eternally endured in darkness; while heaven is perfect mental happiness and joy, in light unalloyed throughout eternal ages."

"I have wished ever since you came to me, to learn your name, but I am glad I did not ask it until now."

"Why?"

"Because, if I had known who my companion was to be, I should not have dared to ask you to take me to Mars; but now, I have been there, and have happily returned."

"I hoped when I came at first, that you would ask to be taken to the great central planet, around which all universes revolve, and on which, as you learned on Mars, is God's eternal home for him and all his loving children; but I was ordered to be governed by your wish alone."

"I almost wish I had said 'to Saturn.'"

"No, no, regret not that; although God *has* placed many of his grandest works upon the outer posts of his great universes, yet his greatest work is the perfect man. Companion, I have returned you here, and now must go."

"Wait, my companion; will you not come before you go and see my Josie, and my two sons, and my daughter, Nellie?"

"Who is this Josie of whom you speak?"

"Josie? Why, she is a *perfect woman*, fresh from the hands of God. She is my better self; the partner of my every hope, and fear, and joy; fairer to my more perfect vision now, than when, more than thirty and two years ago, I led her up to Hymen's altar, and before God and man, made her my bride, for this and the eternal life to come; and even now, though more than fifty of Earth's years have passed since God brought her down to bless the Earth,

and me, and my loved sons and daughter, she is as fair as any matron that I saw on Mars, and she is good as she is fair. She will be glad to greet you, for she loves to do honor to her husband's friends. Our daughter, Nellie, too, who partakes of many of her noble mother's virtues—though *somewhat too much like me*—will extend to you a kindly welcome; while my sons, Andrew and William, are true friends to every true friend of their father. Will you come?"

"Not now, but I will see them at some future day. Had you other children?"

"Yes. Three are in heaven."

"Are there no more in heaven whom you love as a father loves his children?"

"Yes. Two others are there—the children of my child."

"Yes. Five are there—all lovely little girls—two blooming into youth, Minnie by name, and three sweet babes, and all are cared for now by matrons set apart by God to cultivate, instruct, and nurture them, until you and their mothers come to the spirit world; and then upon the threshold of eternal life they will meet you, when you put on final immortality. You will know and love them there, and they will you. I would have shown them to you through the telescope on Mars, if you had asked me, but you were too much excited by what you saw, and I refrained. Now I must leave; but write as I have told you. Farewell, until, at your earnest call, I come again."

In a moment he was gone so far that my spirit eyes could not discern his form. Then I took possession of my body once again, and with mingled feelings of regret at my companion's sudden leaving, and of joy in soon greeting my loved ones again, I turned my steps toward home, and soon clasped in my arms one of the noblest of her sex, my loving wife, my Josephine, my queen.

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CHAPTER XXX.

The Writer follows the Directions of his Spirit Guide and gives a Connected Narrative of what he Saw and Heard on Mars, and then of Particular Things—The Manners and Customs of Mars' People in their Homes—How they Eat—Their Politeness—How they Adorn their Homes—Their Rooms—Ornaments—The Mothers Control at Home—How—Good Sense marks all the Acts of Mars' People, for all are Cultivated and Refined.

THUS far, I have tried to write in connected narrative of what I saw and heard on Mars, as my spirit guide commanded me to do. But he commanded further: that I write also of what things I observed in casual ways, and this I dare not, nor have I the wish, to neglect or disobey.

It was permitted me at many times on Mars, to enter the houses of the people in their homes, and observe their manners there, where no neighbor's eye was on them, and when their own natures controlled all their actions. There I saw that mothers ruled by love, and by exercising firm and equal kindness towards their husbands, and towards all the children of their households, over whom they exercised a mild but firm authority. The fathers, too, treated all as equals, and while they showed great respect and love for their loving wives, they also showed toward all the children there, the same respect that they themselves required. Within the house the mother reigned supreme, and kept all rooms, and all parts thereof, and all the children of the house, in perfect cleanliness and order, and often there the

husband counseled with the wife respecting the labors of the field, and shop, and store.

The children, too, were affable and polite in all things, and at all times; and always used kind and correct words, both toward their fellows and their parents; and with all their might and will, both boys and girls aided their parents in their respective labors; and kindness and good will, and love, reigned in every home, and among all families.

Each room, in every house, had its respective ornaments to make the home inviting; while in each house was one family room, provided with amusing games, instruments of music, books of interest and value, and choice works of handicraft, where each night all delighted to assemble after the labors of the day, and pass in recreation, or in cheerful chat and plays, the fleeting hours. Home was the sweetest place for every child, for every mother, and for each father, too, on Mars; and home vied with home, to make itself more delightful than its neighbor home. The family room was often ornamented with hanging baskets, in which were cheerful growing vines, whose tendrils, trained on wires, above the reach of heads, appeared in funny and fantastic shapes, and often fell in rich festoons at the corners, windows, and above the middle of the room. The walls of other rooms were graced with paintings and designs, often of rare excellence, though made at home, and mirrors, too, draped in phantom muslin, half hid their faces for a time, or only peeped out beneath the muslin's parted folds. No flies, mosquitoes, or other noxious insects there intruded on the housewife's sphere of action; and cheerful light and joy seemed to pervade all parts of her industrious dominion. Their cooking is delicious; and the smell of savory meats, of pies and cakes, and fragrant bread, invites the appetite to full, complete satiety.

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At every table which I saw on Mars, and I saw many there, perfect etiquette prevailed. Each person, small and large, was there provided with a fork of many tines, and *this alone carried all solid food from the plate to the eater's mouth*, while its mating-knife performed its proper office of cutting food alone, and never reached the mouth. Near each large plate there stood a little one, on which butter was placed for the separate use of each one at the table; and near each plate a finger-bowl was also placed, with clear water in; also a napkin for the use of each one in the family, and for every guest. Cups stood in their proper saucers, and were not removed therefrom, but held their fragrant draughts until they were cool enough to drink; for such boorishness as pouring their contents into saucers, there to cool, is a thing unknown on Mars. No smacking of their lips, or other disgusting sounds are heard while eating; and any one on Mars would feel disgraced, if he or she were guilty of such disgusting impoliteness of that kind, so often heard on earth.

The cloths spread on the tables, are scrupulously clean; and casters, knives and forks, and other table furniture, are kept as bright as new, however unique their form, or antiquated they may be; and some of these were made (so I was told) more than one thousand of Mars' years ago, and came down by regular descent and will unto the present age. Delicious syrups, I observed, are used on Mars; and when the golden pitchers which contain them, and when wines are used, the drop which often hangs upon the spout or neck, is carefully cut off by the user's knife, that it may not soil the hand of the next one who may desire to use the cup, or drip down its sides and on the plate or cloth on which it stands. These things and others, although I saw them all, would not have been described,

if all on Earth knew how such things are done in all polite society, whether on Earth or Mars. But it is right that all the cultivated ones on Earth should know that the poorest ones on Mars equal them in all things, and excel them in most matters of etiquette and true politeness.

I observed other things on Mars, and among them this: That people do not labor there all the time, but all labor industriously eight hours of Mars each day, except one day in seven; and on that day they take their ease and cheerful pastime; for they seem to know, and they claim, that life was given to them for enjoyment, and not alone for gain; and while they industriously prepare for daily life and coming years, they enjoy each day as if it were the last; and yet prepare to live a thousand years; for they further seem to feel that innocent enjoyment is the gift of God, and that it is their duty to make themselves, and theirs, and all their neighbors on the planet Mars, as happy as they can; and all this they do.

The people of Mars are wonderfully polite, affable, and endearing in all their manners, words, and actions; and in all things seem to prefer to please and comfort others, rather than themselves. I fell in love with all, men, women, and children there, for even the little babes are taught politeness; and from them all, both old and young, there seemed to beam warm rays of love, which drew to them all their beholders, and revealed within each one a pure spark of divinity; and I aver that all on Mars, if not all on the Earth, do possess divinity within them.

Some other things I noticed there, and among them these: The teeth of all were very white and clean, and every morning there, all, young and old, give their teeth and mouths a thorough cleansing at the time they wash their hands and faces. At that time, too, all comb their

hair, as do all decent people on the Earth; and then prepare to spend each day in neatness. Women and girls coil or braid their long tresses, and put them up in dainty shapes upon their heads; while men and boys, whose hair is neatly clipped, part theirs upon the side, like all men of sense on Earth. In all things I observed of Mars' noble people, for *all* are noble there, I saw that they displayed a taste equal to the most cultivated of the French on Earth, combined with the sound sense of the educated German, the perseverance of the English, and the activity of brain of the American, with the steadfastness of the Parsee; while the grace, candor, and beauty of the women and children there, reminded me of the grace, candor, and beauty which prevails among the women of California, Oregon, and Washington in common with their sisters throughout America.

No fops or self-conceited ones are found on Mars, but all are sensible, and use good sense in all they say and do. Added to this, I was told that no snakes, rodents, or other noxious reptiles or vermin annoy the husbandmen in the field; for Mars' people have not cursed their planet by their sins, and therefore are not so punished as are the men of Earth.





CHAPTER XXXI.

The Sages and the New Bible—A Talk in the Park on Mars—Zoroaster—Who he Was when he Lived—Mistake he Made—The Founder of True Spiritualism—Mistake of his Followers—Zoroaster's Teachings—Moses mixed Egyptian Learning with the Revelations of God to him—Punishment of Mediums who know God's Will and do not Declare it—Where Zoroaster is now—The Chronologers of the Bible Many Thousand Years at Fault.

ONE evening, as my companion and I walked together in the park which surrounds the first temple that we visited on Mars, I asked him what he thought or knew of Zoroaster; to which he answered, substantially, these words:

“Zoroaster, like my brother, was a true medium, and God, through him, expressed his will, and communicated his desires respecting all men living, and to live, upon the earth. But, as some followers of my brother selected the cross—because he suffered on one—as a symbol of the pure religion and true spiritualism that God required of him to teach, and afterwards falsely thought the cross itself was the great source of light and truth, and thus became its worshipers; so Zoroaster pointed to the sun as the true symbol of God himself, and soon his followers began to look upon the sun as the true God himself; and from that they fell down to fire, which they believed was the product of the sun, and therefore part of God, and worshiped it, as many who call

themselves Christians, now on earth, fall down before the cross and worship it, and worship pictures, or carved or molded figures and representations of Jesus, and his mother, and my own. But this is all idolatry, and those who teach, and many of those who follow it, will be forever banished from his presence, and from the companionship of God's true worshipers. Zoroaster announced the truth to man, that there is one God alone; that he is a spirit; that he was, and is, and will ever be without end of days; that he made all created things, and that God, eternity, and boundless space are self-existent; and that God forbade the use of any idol representing him; and yet the followers of that great medium made an idol of the sun, and afterwards of fire. Zoroaster lived more than four thousand years before the days of Abraham on earth; and from his followers, that noble ancestor of the Jewish race, derived his knowledge of the true God. But, after him, Moses mixed the learning of the Egyptians, whose former conquerors and nobility were imbued with much of Zoroaster's faith, with the instructions which he received from God for the sons of Israel, as a medium between God and them. Moses, for his faith in one God alone, went back to the true faith of Abraham, which God had given to man through Zoroaster; the Chaldean followers of whose faith, had long before Abraham's day controlled the minds of Egypt's kings, and had induced them to build the astrological pyramids, as temples not only to the sun, which they taught was an emblem of the true God—though at that day it had become an object of worship, and not an emblem only—but to the stars of their own nativity. But the blood-thirstiness of the religion which Moses taught, he drew from the cruelties of the religion which prevailed in his day among the lowest ranks of the Egyptians, and not from God. God is love, and in

all his attributes is merciful, and kind, and good; and while he permits all his creatures, even the mediums of his will and words, to do as they will and please, he desires the eternal happiness of all. And yet, if even the mediums whom he selects do not obey his will, he punishes them by banishment from his immediate presence."

"Where is Zoroaster now?" I asked.

"He lives in a beautiful paradise, fitted up for his eternal residence, near the place of the Most High, upon the great central planet of all the universes, where he is honored by God, and surrounded by his true followers."

"When did Zoroaster live on Earth?" I asked.

"More than eight thousand of Earth's years ago."

"Why! The chronologers of the Bible make the *Earth* but about six thousand years of age; while, by your statement, Zoroaster lived before the days of Adam."

"The chronologers of the Bible are many thousand years at fault. Adam, the progenitor of the white race, and Eve, their mother, lived many ages before Zoroaster, who was one of their descendants."

"Where did you learn these things?" I asked.

"In the schools, on the great central planet of the universes, where God has caused all valuable knowledge to be gathered, and where all those who love him and do his will, in their probationary state, have free access, and can store within themselves the history and progression of all the universes, and worlds, and peoples."

"I should like to go there for a time," I said.

"If when you lay upon the grass, beneath the tree, on Earth," said my companion, "you had said, 'I wish to go where God has fixed his permanent abode,' I should with rapid flight have helped your spirit there, and you could have seen its God-built glories; but now you must await

God's sovereign will; nor know, till he commands, the beauty, knowledge, and intelligence which surround his glorious home.'"

"Well, I see, each day on Mars, much more than I can understand; and, with the present development of my powers, I fear that if I saw the glories, intelligence, and beauties of which you speak, I could not comprehend them."

"Yes, you are right," he said, "for every intelligent being in all the perfected universes of God, has to be elevated by long and careful cultivation of the soul, that greatest mystery and glory of his creation."

"How do little children learn on that central planet?" I asked.

"They are far more apt than men; and women are next to them," he said; "for men have much to unlearn that they had learned before; and many, who deemed themselves to be great and wise in other worlds, find themselves outstripped by merest babes; and women often laugh at their slow progress; for men even there, are often stubbornly inclined to adhere to their old dogmas, and some who were priests, or so-called ministers, on earth, have almost dared to tell the Almighty to his face, that he himself was wrong; because they thought on earth the book *they called* 'his word' *was all* a revelation of his will; while there they find that it contains, mixed with 'his will,' many daring interpolations—and not his revelations only—made by designing men for the convenience of their priesthood."

"You surprise me," I said, "for I have been often told by priests and ministers on earth, who are called 'men of God,' that every word within that holy book is the sacred 'word of God.'"

"It is a holy book indeed, because it contains many revelations of God's will toward men on Earth, and is the

fountain of true spiritualism and true spiritual doctrines; but like wheat, among which evil ones have scattered seeds of tares, which often grow among the wheat and from which the wheat must be selected when fully ripe, so must the glorious words of God, and revelations of his will and truth, be selected from the holy book, and the vulgar words of worthless men rejected; and then the glorious messages of the Most High, like the pure metal in the refiner's fire, will stand alone in perfect purity, and brighten all in sight of its effulgence."

"It seems to me," said I, "that some pure medium might be selected to revise the book, and expunge therefrom all but the sacred words of God."

"In God's good time that will be done, and his pure word alone, unmixed with crimes and vulgarity, will be presented for a rule and guide for human faith and practice. But the superstitious reverence of the people now, for all its words, however slanderous of God some of the words may be, would hardly tolerate and permit to live on Earth, a medium who should present a sudden expurgation of all the book contains, which God spoke not, nor approves; and therefore men must be first educated up to a much higher plane, and to a more perfect knowledge of God, his knowledge, ways, and laws, and to a better knowledge of themselves, and of the divinity within, of which they now seem ignorant, and dare not recognize, or will not, when they feel its strong endeavors to raise them up toward the true light of God, and eternal life with him."

"These are subjects far too great for me to comprehend," I said.

"Yes, now they are, and it will take eternity to comprehend all the ways, and laws, and works, and love, of God; and yet an era in eternity will come, when you will compre-

hend them all, and then God will have other things prepared for you to comprehend and to enjoy."

"Well, please lead my thoughts just now no further in this direction, for the matter is too great for me to grasp; and I would turn my mind to the pleasant things right here on Mars, and in this lovely park."

"As you desire, it shall be done; so let us wander here within this rose-embowered walk, where mignonette and other fragrant shrubs and flowers delight the air, and where the electric lights from the lovely temple's top and sides cast such bewitching shades; and there, on cushioned seats, softer than eider down, we'll sit a while and commune with welcome thoughts."

And so we did for half an hour or more; and then upspringing suddenly, I said: "Our host will be expecting us, will he not?"

"Perhaps he will; we will go in, and you can speak with him a while of such matters as you please."

So in we went, and after listening to the music there a while, I asked our pleasant host: "What kind of government have the people here on Mars?"

"It is strictly republican, in form and essence; for its self-constituted kings were swept off from Mars many thousand years ago. Each division makes its own laws, yet the laws of all the seven divisions are alike in all general respects; and all the divisions are united in one general republic, and all obey its simple laws," he said.

"Who design and build your temples, public buildings, and lovely private residences?" I asked.

"There are many councils, chosen from our most learned and tasteful engineers, architects, and builders," answered he, "both for our public and our private edifices; and these several councils, to whom all plans of art are first

submitted, determine all these things; and for great public works the people all alike contribute; for all great undertakings belong to the whole people, and the plans for these are first submitted to them by the great council of the planet, and if the work proposed be approved by two thirds of all adults, then the work will be completed by the united will and effort of the whole. In this manner now, the people are preparing to build a greater temple of learning, in honor to our God, than any yet built on Mars."

The hour was getting late, so my companion said; and bidding our host and his family "good night," we went to our repose.

And now, kind reader of this revelation, for the present I must say "farewell." But should you wish to learn of Saturn, too, and, on my coming back again, learn of my observations there—for, as you see, my spirit guide half promised to take me there and bring me back again—then write to the publishers of this book, and encourage them by many purchases. And more than this, encourage all you can, to buy and read a book so filled with good and interesting facts and truths, and with descriptions of what I saw and heard on Mars; for, if you do this, Heaven's rich blessings will attend your path and the pathway of all those who read it as their own; and all who act upon the fundamental law which rules all Mars.

The spirit whispers to me now: "Say to all readers who read, and act upon the precepts of the book, 'Fare you well!'"