

electrical phenomena—as in the bosom of the summer-cloud which rising vapors swell into a threatening monster that rears its “thunder-head” above our western horizon. Here, in this storm of the ages, the dazzling glare of ten thousand lightning gleams sheds an infernal tinge over the murky world; and the responsive voices of ten thousand thunders split the welkin with their detonations. While this fury and chaos reign, the line of battle sinks to the hot surface of the earth, and all at once the attacking waters are volatilized in ten thousand explosions, which rend the elements. Imagination, even, shrinks from the contemplation of the scene.

But we must brave the struggle through; the culmination of the great æonic storm is passed. The powers of fire are vanquished; the waters gather over the heated crust. They are furious with effervescence and ebullition, but they hold possession. On all sides rise columns of steam from a boiling ocean. The atmosphere, once so arid, is now soaked with vapor. The skies still drip with rains, but the gloom is not so dense. There seems to be a day-break on the scene. The exhaustion of the clouds proceeds; and now behold, it is dawn. A new cosmic day is rising on the flooded world. The volume of the ocean swells; it has no shore. The clouds, fed by the vapors of a heated ocean are not dispersed; but a brightening glow heralds promises of a new age. The years speed on, and the alternations of night and day are discernible. The years speed on, and expectation waits for some glorious dénouement. Behold, it arrives. The sun in his daily circuit about the world so long lost to him, rose one day in the eastern sky, and a broad rift in the clouds let in a golden beam of sunlight, direct upon the waters which enwrapped the earth.

How changed the scene since last those rays fell useless on the scorched and glowing crust. Then the self-luminous earth cast no shadow, and there was no night. Now, one hemisphere is in darkness and the other is in sunlight. Now for the first time, as the earth rolls on its axis, the succession of night and day becomes possible. Now, for the first time, the sun becomes “the ruler of the day” and the moon of the