

done? It listened further to the revelation of the star-light. It learned that the same world-stuff pervades the starry spaces and the precincts of our planetary home. Iron is in the stars and bolts the universe together in one inseparable unity. Sodium is there, and hydrogen and other substances which identify the stars and the earth. The very mud in our streets is lighted up in the constellations. Sunlight tells the spectro-scope a fuller tale. It writes the names of twenty elements, at least, with which we have toyed in the laboratory, and unfolds a marvelous story of warring flames and bristling fire-darts streaming a million of miles from the lambent surface of the sphere.

Thought wandered again across the wild courses of the meteors. They awakened recollections of the iron and stones which have come to the earth; and of the carbon and hydrogen and watery vapor which they have brought to us from beyond the planets. These falling stones have come as actual samples out of the store-house of world-stuff. They verify the revelations of the light. They come as slow-traveling messengers to confirm and amplify tidings flashed by telegraph. They proclaim one sort of matter throughout the empire vast as the limits of human vision.

Next, passed before memory's view, a grand procession of events. Nebulous matter emerged from non-existence, and subjected itself to the workings of gravitation and heat and mechanics, till a succession of worlds rolled out on the platform of existence, and I saw myself a circumstance in the midst of the cosmic unfolding. I marveled that the energies of Nature had not been exhausted, or replaced, in the æonic labors which they performed in molding a system of planets and marshaling them in their places. But I find that gravitation and heat have worked under the same laws from the beginning to the end. The unity of the physical world is as vast and as wonderful viewed in its historical relations as in its spatial extent. Down through all the cycles—through all the burnings and freezings—through disruptions and collisions—through cataclysms of fire and flood, one hand has steadied