

of our race, as Mayer suggests, occupies consequently the comparatively brief space during which the retarding and accelerating tendencies neutralize each other.

These are the determinations of exact science. Mathematics have demonstrated that the cooling process which geology affirms of the past is certainly in progress in the present. It is immaterial how slow the process may be; the ultimate total refrigeration of the earth is a result which time will accomplish. Time, I say, since after the work is completed eternity will stretch onward as fresh, and inexhaustible, and limitless as when the career of planetary matter began.

This earth, to which our life-long round of labor and care is limited by an inexorable decree, was once a self-luminous orb. Far away in space, where Sirius was gleaming with his silver, or, perchance, his ruddy light, dwelt intelligent beings upon a planet which had already attained a habitable condition. From that abode the astronomer found means to contemplate the fiery globe that was destined to become the dwelling-place of man. Centuries of centuries later, the astronomer upon that distant orb noted the disappearance of a star upon which his predecessors had taken observations. Our planet had become opaque. Mists had gathered about it, and the ocean had descended from the clouds. Never more has this once resplendent orb greeted the eye of the astronomer of other systems; and while now the annals of his science perpetuate the memory of a lost star, that star first becomes a reality to conscious man. But *our* occupancy of the terrestrial globe is only a phase as evanescent as the self-luminous stage. While we build our cities and recount the achievements of a few generations past, this globe of matter hurries onward in its destined career as rapidly as a million years ago, when merely preparing for the occupancy of Adam's race. Every