

II.

HISTORICAL GLIMPSES;

OR,

STORY OF THE WORLD SET IN ORDER.

XXXVI. GATHERING WORLD STUFF.

WANDERING GERMS OF WORLDS.

It will be interesting to inquire what matter was before it was fire-mist. If we can think out any movements or actions of matter in any form which, under the laws of nature, would tend to bring it to a state of fire-mist, then we ought to ascertain if matter exists or has ever existed under such circumstances as to possess such movements and exert such actions. If we find such movements and actions in real existence, then some matter is now tending toward a state of fire-mist, and it is reasonable to assume that the fire-mist in which the great cooling process started, may have originated in the way indicated by what we see. In another work ("World Life"), I have entered into some details on this subject; but it will be understood that the inquiry is largely a speculation, though suggested, shaped, and guided by what we know of the laws of matter, and observe taking place in the universe around us.

Comets are facts of observation; there is no mistake as to the real existence of such bodies, whatever they be. They always excite our admiration. They are full of wonder. They come from the unsearchable depths of space, and after shining in our heavens a few weeks, disappear in the unsearchable depths. What is their origin? What their end? Think of the approach of one of these mysterious messengers