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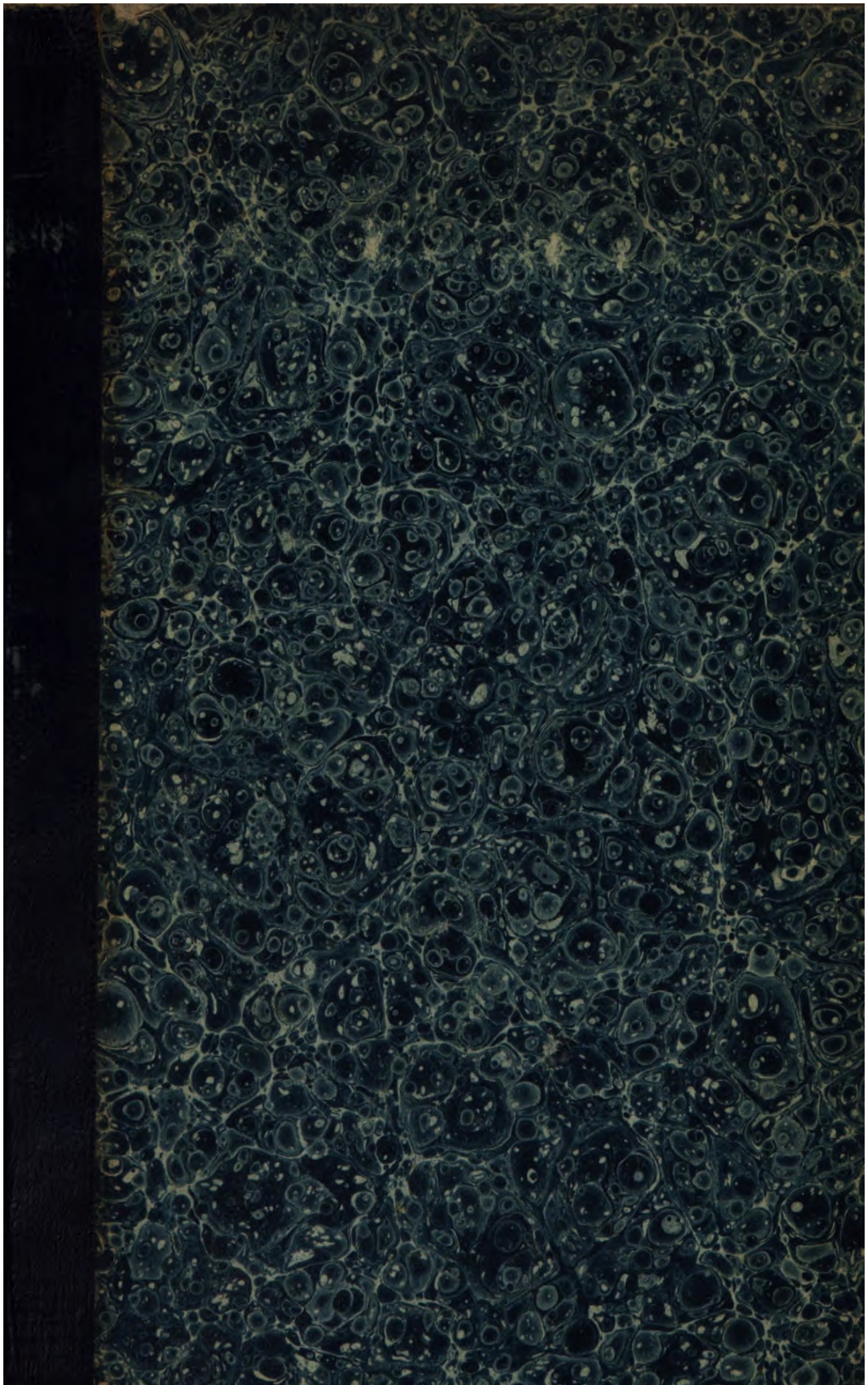
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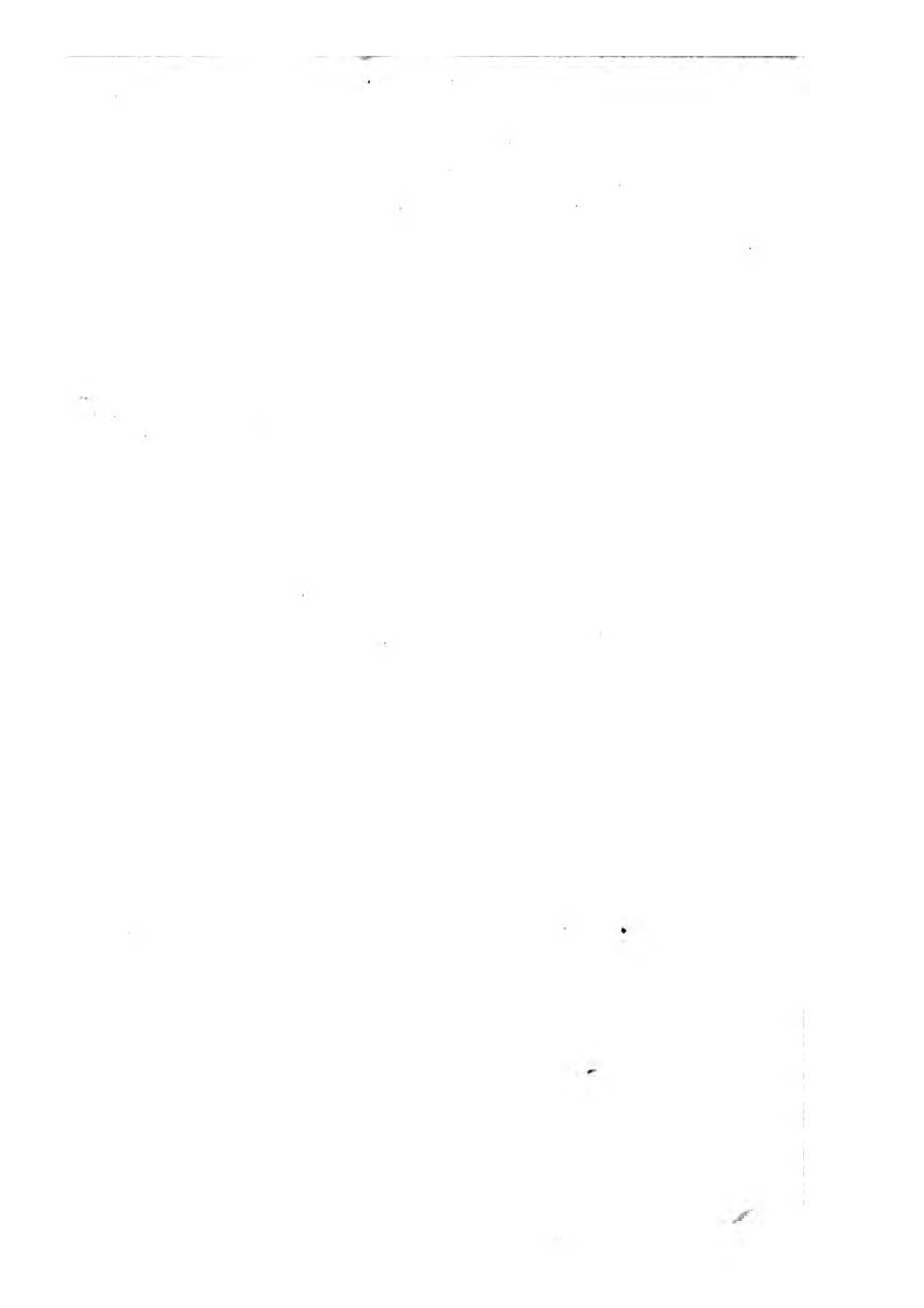


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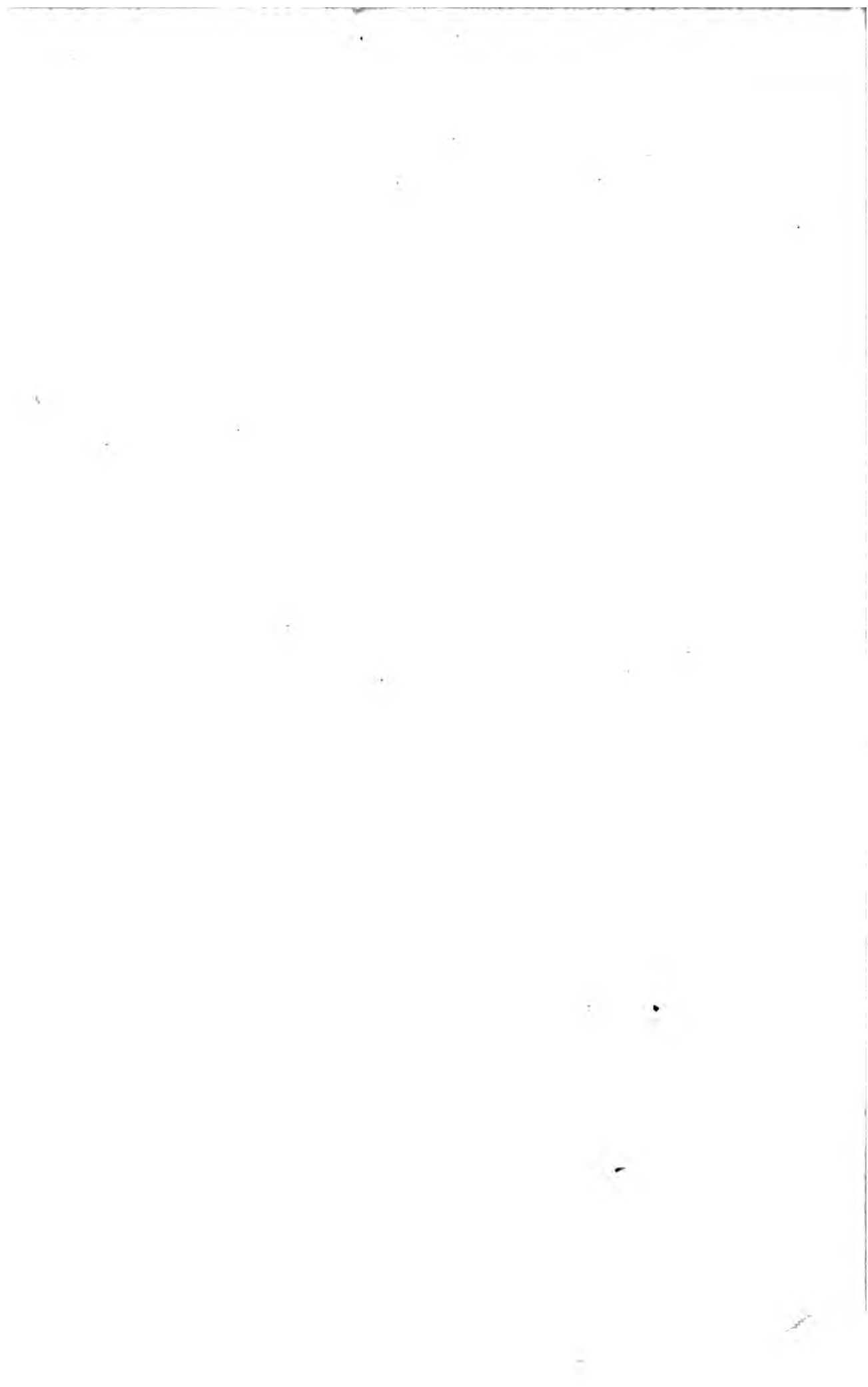
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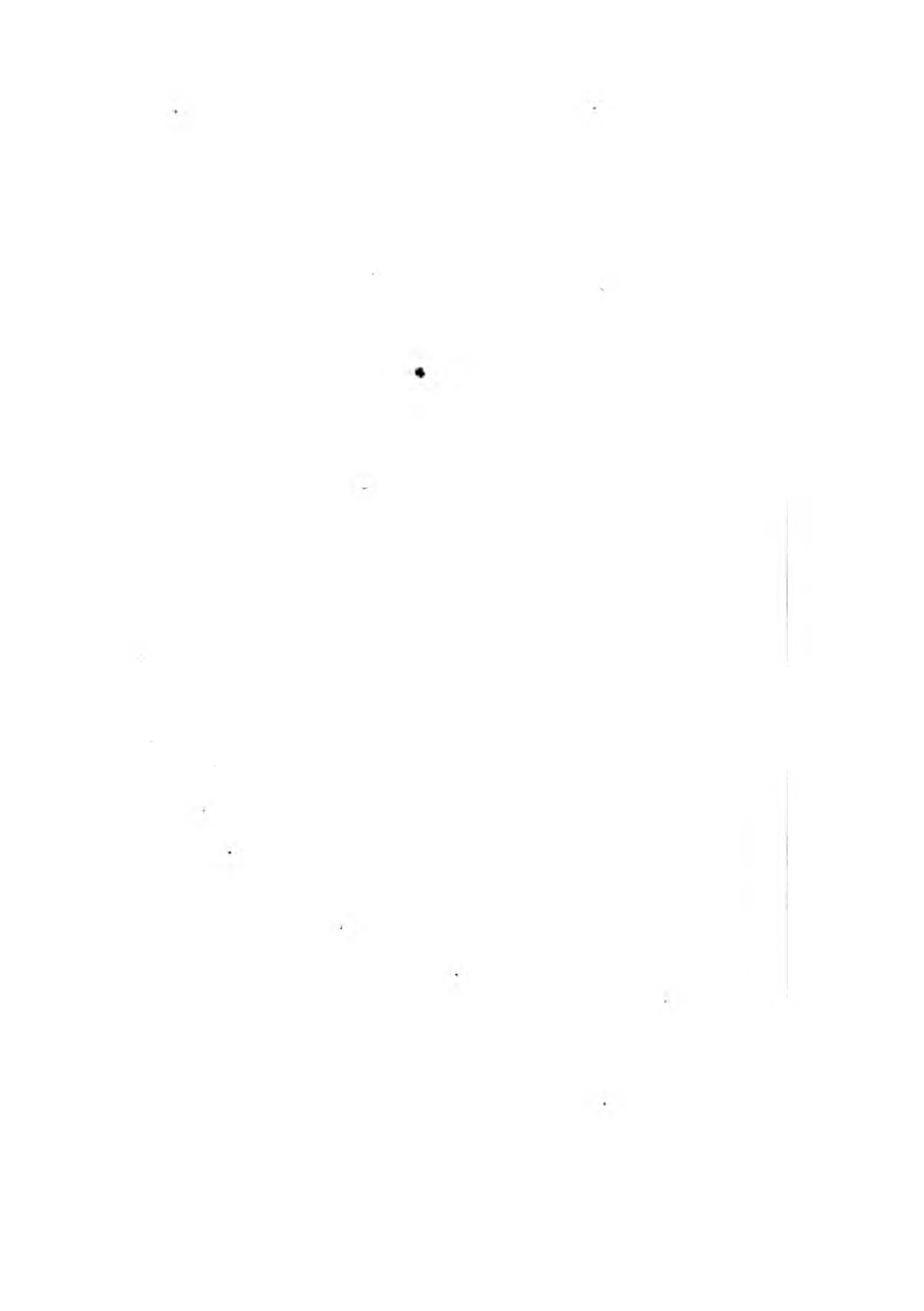
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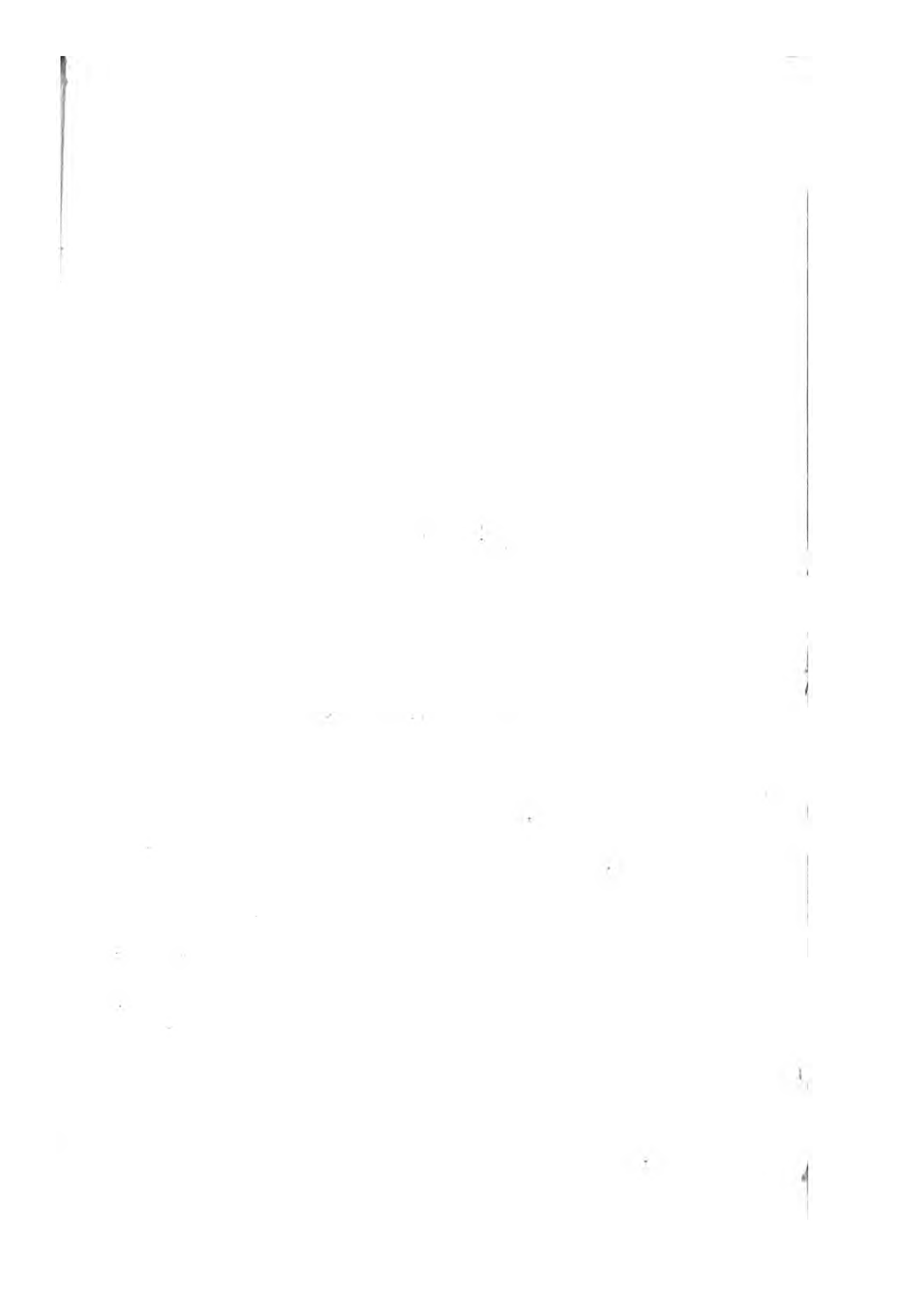




A Dream

of a

Queen's Reign.





A Dream

of a

Queen's Reign.

I have had a most rare vision.

Shakspeare.

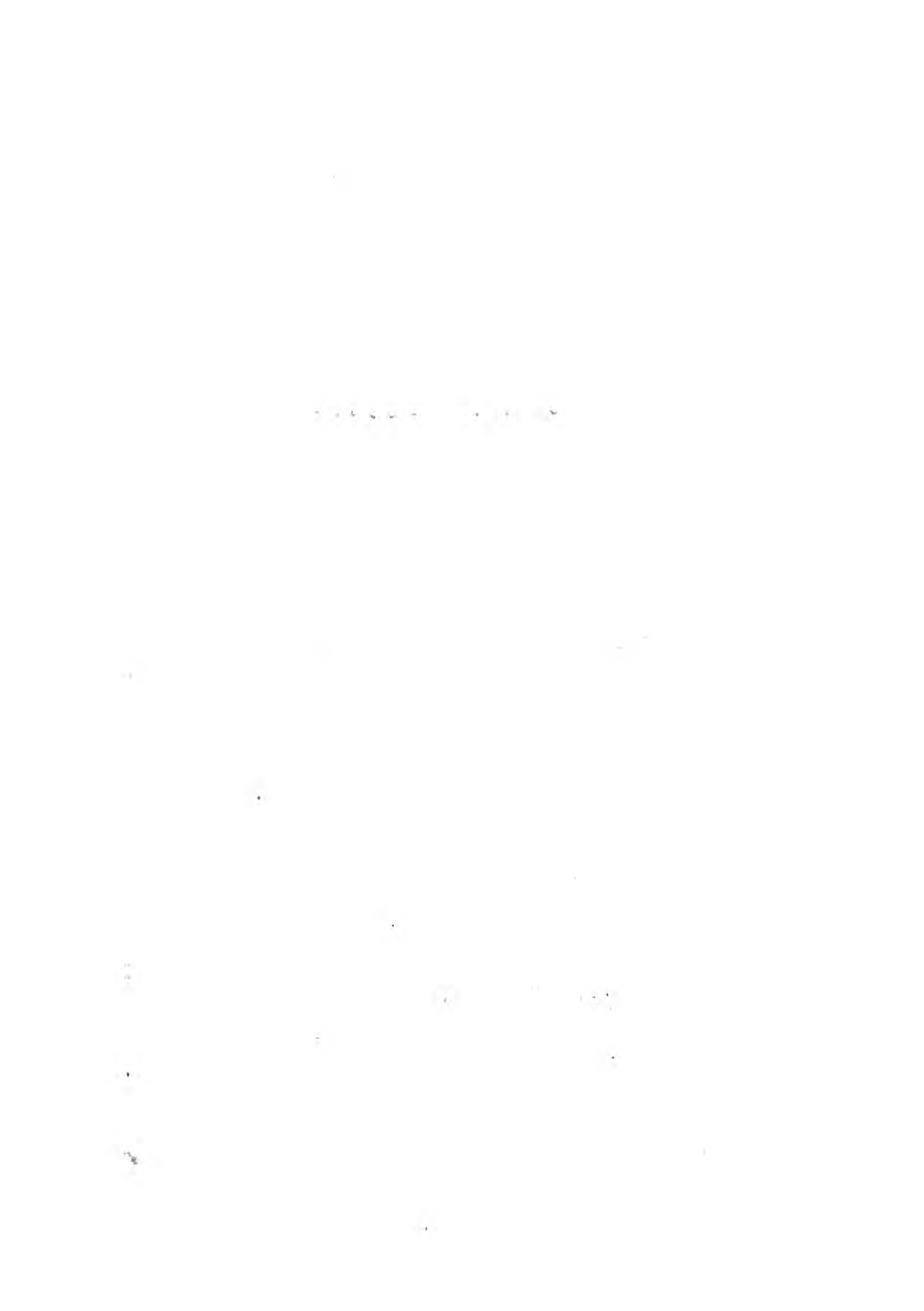
Benson's



London: —JOHN TEMPLEMAN,

CCXLVIII, REGENT STREET.

MDCCCXLIII.



THE EDITOR'S PREFACE.

By leave of the Critics, who live only to see the day when perfection shall prevail over all the republic of letters, and who look upon any thing like an innovation on the established usages of bookmaking with no very favourable eye; there is still a numerous and good humoured class of readers to be served, who prefer waiting a little longer for the anticipated perfection, to remaining ignorant of the means whereby certain odd things of their own time come to pass. To satisfy this harmless curiosity,—though one of the greatest authorities in all book matters has classed Prefaces amongst the trials which Readers are doomed to undergo in this probationary stage of existence,—it must be stated that the Editor of the ensuing pages began, a few years ago, to make some collections for the purpose of compiling and publishing the History and Antiquities of a small rural district in one of the midland counties of England; for which it may not be deemed too much to say he possessed a few of the more requisite qualifications: such as a personal knowledge of the locality, and of the deteriorating social changes to which it had unhappily been subject; a smatch of antiquarian curiosity; pity for humbled greatness; sympathy for generous purposes disappointed; and sufficient means and motives, of one kind or other, to bring the few hidden and forgotten things of a now neglected little district to light, and to render an unpretending labour of love amusing if not instructive.

As the little work approached completion, prospectuses were printed, and circulated in the usual way, amongst the county booksellers; and one was conveyed, under cover, directly to every nobleman, magistrate, clergyman and known reader in the district: but when, in due course, the proposals came to be followed by a call for orders, ONE COPY was ascertained to be the extent of the impression that would be required for the first edition. Hope, for its many disappointments, makes some amends by being never out of season; and it is therefore not out of season to state the hopeful fact that *the* subscriber was the greatest of the many-acred in the county.

In this somewhat discouraging state of things, the Rev. Theophilus C——, the octogenarian curate of G——, lately deceased, (who had greatly assisted in the work,) was called upon, and to him was related the state of the case; but he appeared to be not in the least disappointed. Indeed, while the labours and enquiries were in progress, he had frequently, and with much grief of spirit,

alluded to that deteriorating system of absenteeism, delegated exaction, and present evil example, so unworthy of English gentlemen and good churchmen, which more or less afflict and unsettle all parts of the land, and which had long rendered his own laborious course of ministry ineffectual; insomuch that he had scarcely been enabled to keep himself in a condition above contempt and insult: on many such occasions, he had expressed his doubts, whether a little work, antiquarian, topographical and moral; at once so original, faithful, touching and fearless, as this was likely to prove, would ever meet with the patronage which (as he was always pleased to say,) it merited.

It was in the course of this interview, which included breakfast and dinner, and all the space between, with some bookish rambles in a romantic old garden, on one of the finest of summers' days, that the reverend gentleman unlocked an old cabinet, and took out the "DREAM OF A QUEEN'S REIGN;" assigning as his reason for not producing it before, as one of the curiosities of the locality, that it had so evidently been interpolated and altered by different hands, at different periods, and for different purposes, that he had little or no faith in its general authenticity; nor could he ever, by his utmost diligence and skill in analyzation, read it in so connected a manner as to understand its drift, nor to determine the locality to which it refers, nor the period or periods when the chief portions of the context were written.

The Editor took the MS. away with him; and the results of his own labours and reflections upon it are, that though varieties of diction, character and agency, the evident production of different hands, periods and purposes, were indeed to be found mixed together in all parts of it, yet whenever the Dream occurred, by whomsoever it was first begun to be reduced into a written form, or whatever reference or points of resemblance or applicability, accidental or otherwise, any of the illusions or predictions may be supposed to have, to any persons, parties, or circumstances of modern, former, or later times, the main portion of this report of it, as its terms and general forms of expression denote, was probably written a little after the accession of King James I. And there is still something, it is presumed, in spite of the evident anachronisms and inconsistencies with which it abounds, of a connected purpose, and that of no common order, traceable in the general context, as now put forth to the public.

In coming to this conclusion, however, it must be confessed that great doubts and difficulties have presented themselves; and which, perhaps, after all, in the judgment of the judicious Reader, may seem to have been rather forced into their present appearance of order than overcome. For, as if it were not a sufficient cause of confusion and error that (with few exceptions) the names

of all persons and places should be erased, except the initial letters,—a defect which no one of any pretension to editorial integrity, could presume positively to supply,—the publishers and editors, at different periods, have contributed largely to the difficulty of the present undertaking. From certain crowded interpolations and marginal addenda, it is made to appear that somebody wanted to publish the Dream in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Indeed, amongst the various illuminated title pages, which were found rolled up with the MS., one bears a date coeval with the reign of Queen Mary, her sister, and predecessor; and there are plain directions to the printer, with dates to them, shewing that in the time of Queen Anne the necessary steps were actually taken to put this Dream forth in a connected form to the world; but owing, probably, to the constitutional timidity or unexpected demise of that princess, it was considered to be totally inapplicable, and the manuscript was reconsigned to oblivion, or passed from hand to hand only amongst the curious.

In answer to the Editor's inquiry as to the source whence it came into the hands of its last conservator, the reverend gentleman stated that his grandfather purchased it, with other literary curiosities, at the public sale of the effects of a learned antiquarian at Huntingdon, whose ancestors had been for ages forming the collection. Much allowance is of course to be made for the professional zeal of auctioneers; and it was probably on no better than *sub hasta vendi* authority, that the reverend gentleman had, himself, under the label, "A Dream of a Queen's Reign," which he had affixed to the tin case wherein the MS. was preserved, written, in Latin, to the effect that this manuscript was greatly desired by Sir Robert Cotton, sometime of Connington, baronet, at any price; but that all his offers were rejected.

Having thus given probably as correct an account as could now be rendered of the Dream, (except that, from a trivial incident which transpires at the conclusion, it must have occurred in autumn,) and of the way in which it came into the Editor's hands, some information concerning the Dreamer will naturally be expected; but the Reader can be informed only that he was one Master Bernard M——, of S——. For what purpose the names of persons and places are thus erased it were now a bootless task to conjecture. But wherever seated, or of whatever importance this family might have been formerly, very little information concerning it is now to be collected. It is, however, not difficult to infer that the Dreamer was a bachelor, and a gentleman of what is called a good family; that he was a scholar, and had travelled; that he was of a religious and kindly disposition; and was a person of a cultivated taste, for the period at which he lived. Moreover he was of a highly imaginative and speculative turn of mind,

especially with reference to human melioration : and it has frequently been found, that those who look forward from minute but lucid points of sight, are as capable of taking enlarged and practical views of both the necessity and means of human advancement, as those whose lot it is to live in more stirring times, and to be actually engaged in the conduct of public affairs. The family had undoubtedly been of note in Master Bernard's own neighbourhood, at least ; but being himself perhaps a younger brother, or the descendant of a collateral branch, or the inheritor of an encumbered patrimony, he might have been neither too rich for a dignified leisure, nor too poor to be enabled to cultivate and enjoy the elegances of a gentlemanly state of life.

Many such decayed remnants of family importance existed within the memory of persons still living ; and might be known by their little triangular or large round hats, and red faces ; their gold-headed canes, large shoes, white woollen hose, drab smalls, and silver knee-buckles. They might, many of them, and probably did, often appear to the well-to-do gentry of the huckstering times, and to the gig people who began to perk up around them, to be proud and irascible ; but it was chiefly because they felt that they had outlived much of their family importance, their nearest connexions and more congenial associations, and could feel and breathe equably only amongst certain of their own fondly cherished reminiscences. One could recall days from beyond seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, by a mere touch of an old Cremona ; another could create happy illusions at pleasure by thrumming an ancient harpsichord ; another rejoiced in the possession of a barrel organ capable of sufficient varieties for a wet day in the month of November. And the anger of one of these old gentlemen, when any thing occurred to stir it up, was a thing to be soothed, rather than to be argued with. It seldom lasted long, when once removed beyond the reach of rude and dogged iteration. Perhaps the chimes of a fine old table clock, mingling their simple and soothing melody with the delicate odours of his own sweetbriar and mignonette, would settle the business at once ; and then would your real old gentleman of family hear reason, and not before. Then would he look up at his mullioned and transomed windows, at his stained glass and his family blazonries, and remember his dignity. Then would he look benignly around him at his choice Madonnas, his Carlo Dolcis, his undoubted Rubens, his genuine Correggio, his Descents from the Cross, and his Holy Familys. Then would be the time to ask pardon for all misdoings ; and he would be found abundantly gracious.

The names of the localities being unfortunately erased from every part of the MS. of the Dream, and there being nothing in it to prove, or throw the least light upon, the pedigree of Master

Bernard, the Editor's profound regard for the critical acumen of some Readers, and the proverbial courtesy of all, forbids him to indulge in any plausible conjectures on his family connexions; or to affirm, on the bare possibility of it, that any such could now, in fact, be traced out.

And how far the Dream, as now for the first time printed in one uniform contexture, may be found applicable to the period of the illustrious Princess whose high and happy destiny it is to sway the sceptre of these mighty realms, time only can show; but that the charities and graces of Christian example, which have hitherto characterized the queenly rule, will be continued, so far as the long-obscured and slowly developing light of social knowledge may illumine the path of royal duty, to receive all the advantages of illustration from "the observed of all observers;" and that another long and auspicious reign will have to be added to the history of the British monarchy, may safely be predicted; and so far, only, the allegorical and literal illustrations, pictorial and verbal; the youth, beauty and amiable qualities of the Queen dreamed of, (which are with an affectionate pertinacity insisted on in all parts of the manuscript,) and the various scenes and subjects presented or expressed, are imagined to be applicable, and are intended to be applied, by the Editor. For it may be in a remote age, perhaps some centuries hence, and therefore far beyond the limits of the copyright act, as proposed to be extended by Mr. Serjent Talfourd or Lord Mahon, that the Queen dreamed of may make her appearance; and the worshipful Company of Stationers, who have ever been the zealous patrons of predictive literature, with the successive generations of Booksellers, in that spirit of generous rivalry for which they are distinguished amongst the liberal professions, may continue to bring out new and beautified editions of the Dream until the time of its actual fulfilment; and may equally and permanently participate in the profits of so interesting a production.

Some kind of disclaimer, or apology, is also required with respect to two rival factions, which it is predicted or pretended shall at some period or other exist, and be designated respectively the Bubbsees and the Fubbsees; for the Editor, though unable to discover in them any possible resemblance to any assemblies or factions existing or likely to exist in this country, felt that he should not be justified in striking out those portions of the manuscript wherein they are alluded to; and he has therefore suffered them to go to press with the rest: but not without apprehensions that his own difficulty in perceiving the applicability of them, will be more or less participated in by every intelligent reader.

The preparations of the Dreamer's domestics, for assault and defence, who are incidentally introduced, and actually, as it were

by force of arms, dispel one of their master's illusions, grotesque and ludicrous as they may possibly appear to many modern readers, may be in some part accounted for on a reference to Strype's Annals, Oldys's Life of Raleigh, and to the State Papers and other authorities of the period ; from which it is to be inferred that some vague ideas of sudden calls for hostile equipment, and a frame of mind adapted to perilous services, must have been familiar to the commonest of people ; and to the retainers of persons of consequence more especially.

The writings of Sir Thomas Browne could not at the period to which this singular production is ascribed, have been given to the world ; but there can be little doubt that the poetic fiction of Virgil, "*Sunt geminæ somni portæ, &c.*," [ÆN. 6.] of passing through the ivory or horn gate to our repose, was familiar to the thoughts of the Dreamer ; and though he could not have had the advantage of seeing the inimitable allegories of Bunyan, Swift and Defoe, he had probably studied such works as "*The Trauayled Pylgrime,*" as printed in 1569 ; wherein the "*Authour,*" or supposed pilgrim, is attended by personifications of MEMORY, and other attributes or agencies, who explain the various scenes, stages and phases of human life, through which he is made to pass : and these might naturally be imagined to have predisposed the mind of the Dreamer, and suggested a similar species of agency in the ensuing visions.

The Editor, from a desire both to avoid offence to the lovers of our older English literature, and at the same time to render what appears to be the drift or moral of the Dream as intelligible as possible to modern readers, has allowed the Dreamer's own narrations and descriptions to remain nearly in his own words, orthography and forms of expression ; but the language of the chief apparitions he has endeavoured, in certain parts, to render into a more modern style. He is also responsible for the arrangement of the Dream into separate Visions, or Chapters, and for the abstracts of their contents prefixed to each.

On the whole, it is hoped that something will be found upon the surface to amuse the lovers of light reading ; with an under-current of the philosophy of social life, that may prove not altogether unworthy the attention of those who can digest more substantial fare.

TH

DREAMER'S APOLOGY TO THE READER.

LONG ere this present writing I had been oft-times bemused with the several ways and concauses of Man's advancement ; as well in things pertaining unto an humane civilness as of a Christian faith and carriage ; and certain of my musings therein have been by day found extream pleasant and contentive ; as by night they have likewise been reflected in visions, and of so seeming a verity, that had any record been kept, divers had questionless been found worthy of note. Wherefore, eschewing that vain apprehension of looking for a too great advancement in goodness and content in this present life, which once having admittance, doth in many, and those of a lighter carriage, induce a disposure towards too much evil ; and sith there be few so mean or so diffident that they seek not their content with some worthy object,—for this once, and whilst all is yet in remembrance, will I write the things which I have seen and heard ; in order that the record thereof may be preserved from the corruptions of tradition, as likewise from oblivion and the rust of time ; to the intent that the curious of other days, unto whom it may haply descend, shall bechance note its fulfilment, in whole or in part. So now, gentle Reader, though many things herein might doubtless be amended, and it shall be a thankworthy labour in thee to note and declare them ; I am too far thine anteceder in this earthly pilgrimage to do more than commend what hath been done unto thy courteous acceptance ; and if it should but incense some skilfuller architect unto a new modelling, in respect of the manner thereof, provided that he change not the matter, I would but the more heartily commend it unto thy favourable aspect.



A DREAM,

ETC.

VISION I.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE DREAM.

THE DREAM BEGINS.—AN APPARITION ENTERS.—THE DREAMER'S AMAZEMENT, AND SUCCEEDING JOY.—THE APPARITION VANISHES; LEAVING HIM IN A TRANSPORT OF GLADNESS.—THE RECTOR OF AN ADJOINING PARISH ENTERS, AND REPROVES THE SUPPOSED LEVITY OF THE DREAMER'S CONDUCT.—HE JUSTIFIES HIMSELF ON THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE OCCASION; AND THE RECTOR IN AN ANGRY MOOD RETIRES.—THE FIRST APPARITION RE-ENTERES, AND INTRODUCES OTHERS.—THEY ASTONISH AND TERRIFY HIM BY TYPIFYING THE MAGNITUDE AND ABSURDITY OF THE WORLD'S FONDEST ERRORS.—THEY BESPEAK HIS ATTENTION TO COMING SCENES, AND RETIRE.

SCARCE had mine eyelids closed yesternight, and the body sank into its needful rest, when there began a Dream; a Dream wherein methought that I was seated in mine own library, and therewith came over me a sensible joy. And straightway there did come, but from whence I wist not, one of humane proportions, decored in a classic robe of an astounding brightness, and having the graceful motions of a young gentlewoman of worship, but with a countenance of an engaging strangeness, and stood before me. I essayed to arise out of my chair, that I might render a beseeming homage unto so excellent a presence but was prevented; amazement having fixed me agaze and half risen, as a statue of wonder; leaving to mine eyes only the power of a speculant admiration. As downcast I still remained, by reason of mine overmuch wonder, I noted that upon her feet were sandals as of silk and gold; beauteous as the *sandalii* of Apollo; yet in a sort betrimmed and ingirded for interminable travel. And when that, anon, I did again begin to look up with a more assured stedfastness at a stelliferent light which

had aforetime with its blinding radiancy concealed the extremity of the right arm, its rays no longer dazed the sight, but there appeared plainly an hand, of exquisite symmetry, wherein were seemingly holden many pens, from the several points whereof there did proceed *flammulæ*, or lesser sparks of light, first changing themselves into the mildness of daisies, as they are wont to put forth when dew-besprent and shined upon at sunrise, and next as a posy of sundry differing flowers, they separated, and severally evolved, unrolled and expanded themselves, falling upon the floor of my library, in the forms of divers books, scrolls and outspreaded memorials; whereon were inscripturings and impressures of matters concerning the times past, present and to come: whereat I was still holden in a marvellous bethralled fear; but again lifting up mine eyes to behold the countenance of this most strange apparition, lo, a chaste smile appeared therein; and as I still perused, methought her face did still appear more natural; at sight whereof I spake, and said:—Who art thou, and whence comest?

She answered and said, I am HISTORY. I come from the beginning of time; and go even unto the end.

Then, after much wonder and speculancy, I said, the freeness of thine answer doth in some sort embolden me to become a querist unto your good HISTORYSHIP.

Quoth HISTORY:—None can be more free to inquire than shall ever be found my readiness to answer.

Whereto, after I did again consider the matter, I made replication and said: I know thou art HISTORY; because, as thou hast declared thyself, even such doth thy many pens give thee out; moreover it is plain thou hast come from the beginning of time; for thy progress hath been noted and recorded by the wisest and worthiest, and may be seen of all men: but as thou journeyest onwards, it must needs be that certain foreshadowings of the future shall be sometimes in prospect; wherefore I pray thee tell me what manner of persons shall in after times bear rule in this land?

Quoth HISTORY again: Mine office is rather to record events than to foretel them: nevertheless, every good historian and observer of causes and effects, should be half a prophet in many matters such as that thou hast propounded. But wherefore dost thou ask this thing?

Forsooth, quoth I, it is because I love the brotherhood; and by reason thereof, and sith that as the goodness of the rule shall be, so shall the measure of obedience and content be, greater or lesser: and I would fain know if any of this faith shall bear rule in the days that are yet for to come.

Of a truth, said HISTORY, thou hast answered well; and unto thee and such as thee, shall be opened the treasures of knowledge and of many things concerning the estate of other days. Where-

fore, certain possible chances of other times are here, in the form of chronicled events, in part opened unto thee ; as they have ever been unto all hopeful inquirers. Take up the scroll which thou seest nearest at thy feet, and read to thine heart's content.

Whilst I stooped to take up the scroll, you shall understand that HISTORY'S apparition and all the other memorials vanished ; but methought that presently I was again seated, and began to read in the scroll which I had taken up, the heads of certain things that should come to pass, and be written in the memorials of this venerable and hereafter to be blessed land. How that after ages of wealth worship, wherein simple truths should be disbelieved, and its assertors persecuted ; straight paths should be made crooked, and those whose hands should be strengthened for well doing, should vex and weary themselves to commit iniquity : and how that, after many days, and after many accidents of birth, death and succession, a Princess should be born, and being nurtured in all love and gentleness, should wax fair and beautiful as the first rose of summer ; that in the fullness of time, in default of an heir male to succeed to the kingly inheritance, she should be seated on the throne of these realms, and be united in marriage with a prince of surpassing parts and disposures : that judgment and righteousness should be given unto her from above ; that the wise, the good, and the loving, from the uttermost parts of the earth, should hither come to learn the things, that principalities and powers were from the beginning ordained to accomplish ; as well as to behold the surpassing beauty of the Queen's Majesties countenance, and to do her honour : and, being that when Queens reign, the counsels of great men, most worthy to be so called, do most prevail, matters should so fall out that in her long, prosperous and right happy reign, the strong holds of ignorance and oppression should begin to shake and crumble, by reason of their own ponderousness and corruption ; yea, and be assaulted by their own sometime defenders, and cast down, even unto the ground : that instead thereof goodly temples and fair towers of knowledge should be in part builded up, insomuch that the Queen's Reign should be the advent of a general contentment : wherefrom all men and nations should learn to walk in the ways of peace and good will, honouring the fairest and first of the true defenders of the faith, and ever cherishing the memory of the victorious Queen of the Isles.

When that I had read the matters and things on the scroll in brief recounted, unto the end, and found how great benefits should come into this land by means so fair, methought an exceeding great joy did return upon me, and therewith, in some part, the nimbleness of my youth ; insomuch that albeit alone, and somewhat stricken in years, I could not choose but arise from my chair to tread a measure, in the which, as likewise with Lady Greensleeves,

I had formerly much content, and was wont to get thorough the postures and figurings indifferent well; the same being a certain coranto, intituled The Court of Greenwich: but scarce had I drawn back mine arms, strained the outward flexure of my knee-joints, and was fixed in an apt disposure to take the corvetto primo and leap-valiant of the court, when methought suddenly there came in and did appear before me mine ancient, most reverend and singular good friend, the rector of Saynt Andrew of S—, nearest in neighbourhood, but not of mine own cure, myself being of D— manor house in the same vicinage,—who astonished beyond measure at my so extasied gladness, demanded wherefore I did carry myself on this wise? Unto whom, when that I had descended unto the level of plain discourse, and had done all be-hooveful reverence, I said that truly I was filled with a joy which I could not controul, nor in any otherwise express.

Certes then, quoth he, thine is the joy of one clean diswitted; and thou sayest well therefore that thou canst not express it but by the pranked antickness of a dancer: wherein it appeareth plainly that thou regardest not duly thine over-estimated Saynt Ambrose his Mystic Interpretations.

I rejoined that godliness doth not alone consort with dolor and debility, nor with an encaved retiredness, nor with what a learned author of our own times calleth, *Traditionem lampadis*, nor with a self-denying austereness: howbeit I did well remember what St. Ambrose saith. Still, the body being not the mind's dungeon, but its tabernacle, it might, after a godly sort, be lighted up whensoever its tenant hath meet cause of rejoicing; and for the which this further apology remaineth: that after Socrates had gathered unto himself great and divers stores of wisdom, he would needs turn him unto the study and practice of dancing; concerning which Quintilian hath also something advanced, touching expression oratoricall. Marcus Varro hath likewise commended alternations of grave reflection and brisk action: and furthermore, I spake of David his dancing, and the occasion thereof, as the same hath been set forth at large in Holy Writ.

Quoth the good Rector: I trow thou hast in a fair attire of words bedighted a foolish matter; and yoked together, but after no doctrinal fashion, things prophane with others of sacred warrant; and as oft-times occurreth with unmeet conjunctions, to the endamage-ment of both. Howbeit well knowing thy leaning towards the antique profanities and Romish mummeries, the nimbleness of thy parts, thine over-counted advantages of travel, thy quodlibets and the bookful subtleties thou dost ever cumber thyself withal, I stay not now to speak; further than that it had been well if Pope Gregory primus had truly interdicted, as he threatened, all the prophane authors of antiquity: but as touching thine excuse, thou must needs

be told thy speech hath in it more bulk of mast than weight of corn ; and that thy carriage becometh not thine age, nor thy station, nor the soberness of a Christian man.

Whereto I delivered, in rejoinder, somewhat allusive to that conceit of Tully, that since no man's errors need be followed because he hath said some things well, so good sayings must not be rejected because the speaker hath committed errors ; and as touching my mood saltatory, and the occasion thereof, that the heart is best occupied in the inditing of good matters ; for that good imaginations must be ever first inciters to good motions ; and are in no part of Holy Scripture condemned, but evil imaginations only. Then did the good Rector sorely condemn all popish and other ill books and circumventive studies ; and departed in a great chafe and threatening festination, that if on grave advisement my wits be not found truly flawed, he should have need to advertise my recusancy unto my right reverend lord of Lincoln.

Now was I left alone again, but proceeded no further in the coranto which I had well nigh begun ; but in a tristful case methought I returned to my chair to muse upon the words of the good Rector ; when HISTORY appeared again : and after a right pleasant salutation, which was with all duteous motions returned, I noted that mine ancient book, intituled *Codex Rerum*, as the same stood shelved in my library, did seem of itself to move, and open ; and there came out of it, presently grown into full proportions, and chastely attired, another semblant fair image, and of a dignity surpassing even HISTORY herself. This done, HISTORY led the new comer by the hand, and set her before me, as her sister, whose name was JUSTICE ; and who had, for the nonce, laid aside her bandage, as also her scales and sword, to be my visitor ; but would shortly depart, having many matters requiring her presence and agencies elsewhere.

Being much astonished at these things, but pleased withal to be attended in such honourable sort, methought that I presently said, Good Mistress JUSTITIA, by whatsoever way thou camest, or whither goest, thou art right welcome hither ; for truly I desire for mine estate and estimation nothing more honourable than to be known as of thine intimate acquaintance.

JUSTICE in brief replied, that by mine own desire came the acquaintance, and as touching the honour thereof, myself alone could lose or tarnish it.

Howbeit, by the strangeness of these procedures, I could not choose but be filled with wonder ; and presently began to muse on the possible issues whereunto they should subserve : but anon, there was seen coming forth out of certain writings of mine own, long since tied up in a roll, and put aside,—wherein I had essayed to prove that actual Humanity, under the guidance of the Gospel, was

the chief test of human well-doing ; and that, in man, there was from the beginning implanted a good quality for every good purpose ; requiring only to be called into action by instruction and example, —one other of so surpassing a benignity of aspect, that I was both humbled and comforted ; awe-stricken and yet strengthened withal ; as she was led forward, in her full-grown proportions, attended by HISTORY and JUSTICE, on either side, and enrobed as one newly descended from the courts of heaven and quires celestial.

With a bended reverence I did regard the coming apparition ; and demanded of HISTORY and JUSTICE what should be her name and quality ? to the end that I might render due homage, yea and adoration likewise ; for truly I felt as one in a presence more heavenly than mortal. Whereat the stranger herself spake unto me, and said,—I am RELIGION ; and being well pleased with thy daily musings, desire to have more acquaintance with thee.

Now when thus RELIGION had declared her own quality and purpose, in her own addulced words, I was fain to arise out of my chair to pay a more worshipful homage, than, being seated, I could fully express. Howbeit she forbad me, saying that herself was but an handmaid ministrant unto the one sole object of all adoration, and desired me to remain seated and to be of comfort. Then began my comfort to return ; but methought that RELIGION sorrowed, and demanded wherefore I believed not the things whereof the scroll of HISTORY forespake, touching the Queen's Reign, and the bettered condition of mankind, of which that reign should be the beginning ? I answered that I did believe it. Wherefore, then, was next demanded, should I become sorrowful, as one that believed it not ? I feared to say I had been in part persuaded that mine oblectations were naught ; and I gave none other answer.

For my silence herein I had the commendations of HISTORY and JUSTICE, whilst RELIGION, something plaintful ejaculated concerning man's want of faith, his wilful errors, and his causeless sufferings, most moving to hear.

Then next they began to fetch in and heap up before me, but from whence I know not, other scrolls and thick volumes ; some being in covers of blue paper, some in leathern bindings, and laid flat-wise, for solidness of package ; of others, many were folded in thick rolls, and tied in bundles ; but all containing nothing else but imprinted questings, speeches, and wearisome records and reports : the same being, for the most part, laboured perversions and dull misprisions of eternal truths. And methought that, anon, when the whole space before me was well nigh filled up and darkened therewith, there began to be seen, in the midst of the same, divers ghastly issues of hypocritical pretence, and gusty disturbances also : into the nature and causes whereof, being extreme curious to examine, I did presently espy, in the voids, dark infold-

ings and hollow passages, signs of the fearful havoc which should attend wealth's latest and fondest mistakes. Then I saw that divers tubes and ventiducts were inserted, and there did likewise appear strange mouths, and cheeks filled with wind to a sphered fulness, intently blowing through the same. From some there came out nought but frothiness; through others were perflated little bubbles, which by degrees did grow to a glistening bigness, and presently brake, and vanished; whilst others blew out only a smoaked ventoseness; which, for a time, by labyrinthian twistings and changeful forms, amused the sight, and then passed away into invisible nihility. Soon I began to hear shrill and shaking voices, as of a frayed elvishness, and somewhat resembling laughter afar off; not infantine, nor feminine, nor mannish, nor mirthful; but currish and wolfish withal: and the report thereof gradually waxed into a fearful mixture of discordancy, with howlings and barkings,—as divers learned clarks have certified to be the manner of pleased demons;—whereof certain issued forth, with devilish beaked noses, cornuted and clawed, and in other their several fashions and forms of pleased ugliness; being all eager and rampant in their several intorted ways for mischief and ill doing. About mine own head there came a coldness; and my hair seemed stiff and thorny, like reeds and briars, as quaking with fear, I cried for deliverance. Then did the whole sink down gradually and disappear; the howlings subsided, my composure returned, and the ministering sisters again stood before me.

Said RELIGION: Didst thou hear that laughter?

I said, Callest thou that direful commotion laughter?

Yea, said RELIGION; it is the laughter of whatsoever delighteth in evil continually, at the folly and perversity of man.

I pray thee, tell me, quoth I, wherein so great folly doth consist.

RELIGION replied, that it consisted in the niggardliness of sincerity, and in the profusion of hypocrisy, as shown in the various attempts to act the Christian abroad before being Man at home; and in looking for the fruits of wisdom to come out of the yearly upheavings of a vain windiness: which are but wealth's poor excuses for wilfully neglecting to do what the times, and man's advancement in knowledge, really require.

JUSTICE here took RELIGION by the hand and led her away; while HISTORY came unto me and said there should now be further presentments of persons and things of the days when a Queen, blessed with rare parts of royalness, should reign over the isles. She commanded that I should remain seated and silent; for that all the scenes and persons, for illustration of both good and ill example from their first beginnings, in high stations, prone downwards, in the manner of Homer his chain of causes and their dependent

effects,—through all degrees and orders to the lowest : all should be brought before me ; and that I should hear, see, and understand all, but be seen of none. Thus was I left alone in my chair.

VISION II.

A GRAVE ASSEMBLY.

HISTORY PRESENTS TO THE DREAMER A GRAVE AND REVEREND ASSEMBLY, IN DELIBERATION.—RELIGION ENTERS, BUT BEING OVERCOME WITH GRIEF, IS OBLIGED TO WITHDRAW.—HISTORY REMAINS, BOTH TO INTERPRET THE VISION, AND TO SET FORTH SOME PARTICULAR CAUSES OF RELIGION'S GRIEF.

THEN HISTORY again came to my side, and with one wafture of her hand did present unto me a scene of exceeding wonder. Mine old carvings, together with the parchment folios, ancient cabinets, and the tabernacled recesses of my library, on a sudden slid clean out of sight ; and there appeared before me a chamber of solemnest state ; having at the furthest end a princely throne, with a canopy of crimson velvet, gathered up into a coronal of glorious state over the same : having also pillars and chapters of burnished gold on either side, with pendant fringes of cunning workmanship, and shining garnitures over and round about the seat regal ; whereon, however, none did sit ; but before the footstool thereof there did sit upon a huge crimson bolster, of a shape and bigness such as woolstaplers use for package of their wares, one in a robe and head covering of exceeding solemnity ; and near about him sat others, on seats of the like bagged softness, bedighted in the like antique fashions, and whose visages looked sad and sickly with senectude and graveness. Athwart the chamber, and along both sides, sat rows of others in raiments of estimation ; some being of puffed tissues, and others diversely guarded with honourable badges, point-laces and befringings. After prayer, some spake in a tone accusatory and enchafed withal, concerning poachers and other lewd persons ; also of the spread of popery and naughtiness, with other matters both ecclesiastical and secular ; and made sore complaints of wrongs done and designed to be done unto the quality and the true religion. When I did see and hear these things, I turned towards HISTORY, and demanded to be certified for what cause or purpose should the true faith be offended and hurted on this wise ?

HISTORY said the matter in question was the requirement of a

pidling sum of money, to pay for the instruction of the whole common people; which many apprehend will conduce only to the growth and spread of ill manners, and to the disprofiting of the true religion. Wherefore I was fain to interrupt HISTORY's explanation with mine own right hearty commendation of the godly zeal of these far off times: but, on a sudden, RELIGION came in and fetched so deep a sigh, that the sad moan thereof did seem to make HISTORY grieve, and pierced even as an arrow mine own soul.

Alas for them! said RELIGION; thrice repeating her interjected lamentation! And alas for generations yet unborn! Then her voice being for a season overburthened with sorrow, and her strength failing, JUSTICE stepped forward to give her support. And I spake and said unto RELIGION, Wherefore grievest thou on this wise?

Quoth RELIGION: Can I choose but grieve, seeing that the angels shall weep whensoever the things such as are here beholden shall of verity come to pass. But woe unto them that shall have power over others, for good or for evil in those days; as by them and their negligences and ignorances, and their tamperings with the eternal principles of equity it must needs be mainly that offences will come! Here RELIGION departed, in the company of JUSTICE. Anon I demanded of HISTORY some further explanation touching the causes of RELIGION's grief.

Said HISTORY: My most gentle and good sister, being ever no less compassionate towards the lowest upon earth than devout in the sight of the Highest in heaven, doth ever grieve at whatsoever hath repugnancy to the order divine; whereto degrees amongst men have a special adaptness, and are doubtless of sacred warrant; not for the mere distinction's sake, but for the higher purposes of the general civilness, and for the conversion of the undistinguished orders of men to better ways. And when she spake of yonder assembly in that tone of passionate sorrow, it was lest that, by an overweening self love, and other errors thereby superinduced, they should unhappily divest themselves of their own just and necessary influence, and come at length to be despised and hated of those who, being governed and led after a wiser fashion, would have revered and loved them. It is a sad case, as right well thou knowest, when thy trees of greatest promise become hide-bound, and being good for neither shade nor shelter, nor fruit nor ornament, decline into mere stunted and sapless cumberers of the ground. And for the like distemper in the highest amongst men, it is that RELIGION doth grieve; but hath left it unto me to declare, that a time cometh when many of those who should be foremost in discovering new ways and means of contentment, shall from a too great regard for wealth and other ill influences, be last and blindest.

The new kinds of knowledge, and the new sources of production, which their age shall bring to light, shall be to them but as things valueless and incomprehensible ; for their notions of the attainable dignity meet for such a time, and for such changes, shall scarcely reach higher than to be the little Nimrods of their localities. Wherefore, though it should right well become them to be willing leaders in all that pertaineth to human advancement, their movements in that behalf shall be by inforcement only ; as by daylight the flights of owls and flitter-mice are incited by fears and disturbances, and are undirected to any purpose. But muse not too sorrowfully on these things : for in those far-off days there shall be original and fearless thinkers abroad, and pens at work, displaying the lightsome banners of a moral ascensiveness, as being, by divine ordinance, the duty of man, and the true Christian's economy of social life.

Here HISTORY appeared to wave her hand, like unto the motion of turning over a new leaf ; and the scene was on a sudden closed from my further inspection, even as one would shut up a book.

VISION III.

THE BUBBSES AND THE FUBBSES.

HISTORY PRESENTS ANOTHER ASSEMBLY MORE NUMEROUS BUT LESS GRAVE THAN THE PRECEDING.—BY A VIOLENT CONTEST BETWEEN THE BUBBSES AND THE FUBBSES THE DREAMER IS DISTURBED AND TERRIFIED.—HIS CRIES AROUSE HIS DOMESTICS, WHO COME TO HIS ASSISTANCE.—HE AWAKES ; AND FINDING THAT IT IS ONLY A DREAM HE REQUITES HIS DOMESTICS FOR THEIR FIDELITY, WHO THEREUPON RETURN TO THEIR BEDS.—THE DREAMER, BEING AGAIN LEFT ALONE, AGAIN FALLS ASLEEP, AND HIS PHANTASM IS RESUMED.

WHEN that I had in some sort overcome the wonder and disrelishment wherewith I did behold certain of the things that have been written, and had for a season mused upon the words of RELIGION and HISTORY, touching the same, HISTORY opened unto me another and more numerous assembly in the like godly wise at their prayers, in a larger chamber ; having also for their chief one in a wrought wig of cunning workmanship, sitting in a chair of state, somewhat like unto a tall cup-board, or buffet, wherein are wont to be conserved costly china, as likewise spiced comfits,

rare confections and cordials of salutiferency and sovereign virtues.

Certain of this assembly did arise from their seats and lay upon a table divers petitions and remonstrances touching the dearness of bread-corn, and the ill causes and effects thereof, with other complaints of the manifold wrongs and grievances of the common sort of people; and all humbly praying for relief. Then presently stood up others to offer a discourse thereon; and I did greatly marvel at their patience in the delivery and setting forth the same; for whilst they spake of the common wrongs, and pleaded for redress, certain would fain crow at them, with a true gallinacious and piercing shrillness; others joining in afterwards with their cadent prolongations, as village cocks are wont, each to answer the other, and arouse his own roost; but in a merry correspondiveness that was right pleasant to hear. Others betook themselves unto braying, wherein they disported with an admired naturalness; whilst many did cough and groan together, as persons under sore travail of rheum and inward peccancy. He that sat in the great chair did oft times say, Order, Order;—howbeit none gave heed unto him, but they continued their several divertisements, every one doing whatsoever seemed good in his own eyes. Wherefore, after I had for a season intently surveyed this curious sight, and the treatment of other matters in a like rude fashion, I turned and said unto HISTORY, By what name callest thou this assembly, and what is its employment?

HISTORY said its final name should not be determined at the time here prefigured; but much of its employment should be the imitation of Commodus his loose tamperings with the measures of value, with the supplies of bread corn, and other unjust intermeddlings with men's properties, livelihoods, and sources of subsistence; whereby they shall break up and destroy the middle orders of society, and shall create paupers by the million; yea, and shall render heathenish and starve them, after making them such, by the hardest of usages: the which tamperings and heathenish doings, as thou well knowest, the late renowned Queen Elizabeth did truly call—"A Monster."

Here on a sudden, began loud cries of, Division! Let all manner of strangers whomsoever withdraw!—and a door incontinently flew open, whereat entered a press of rude roysterers with their hats on. Some were booted and spurred, as war messengers, newly dismounted from their galled and reeking steeds; and many others, with looks of fear, as truant condisciples distraught with dread of the rod, ran directly to their respective parties, on the contrary sides of the chamber, to stand up and be enranged by the muster-roll of certain caballers, whose respective naywords of distinction were Bubbs and Fubbs. Then certain numerists began

to take account of the antagonists, the reckoning whereof must needs be extreme difficult by reason of the clamours and defiance from the one party to the other. At length, he that sat in the great chair gave loud advertisement that the Fubbses did prevail over the Bubbsses, by a majority of one. Whereat the prevailers began anew to shout forth their triumph, in such loud and tyrannous sort, that in very shame and grief I besought HISTORY to shut up the scene. Again and again I lifted up my voice, for the scene of disorder was long continued; but methought that HISTORY had fled from my side, and heard me not. Wherefore, being in more terror, I did the more loudly cry for deliverance, saying, Turn them out!—Away with them!—until I became hoarse and weary with the travail thereof; and mine arms, which at the beginning I did stoutly use in my claimant appeals for deliverance, were now grasped in hard hands, and holden in a fast non-potentialness and disuse. Also some one began, with sobbings and dolorous moanings, to respond unto my several exclamations, Kind Master!—Good Master! Unto whom I made answer and said, Master me not on this wise, but loose mine hands, thou naughty varlet; for art thou not a servant of those of whom the Lord spake, saying,—Sith thou devourest widows' houses, and ladest thy fellow men with burthens grievous to be borne, ever mindful that with thine own finger ye bare up no part thereof, for thy much praying and mouth-godliness thou shalt receive the greater ———?

No! said he that held mine arms and lustily shook me. No! said he: Heaven forefend,—No! I am servant unto none such; for art thou not my master? And who should I be, thinkest thou, but thine own poor serving man Roger?

Whereat, and with much more ado, in the like strain, I was awaked, and looked up; and finding mine hands loosed, and mine own poor knave kneeling at my bed side, in exceeding much joy for my recovery, I was presently certified that my late trouble was only a dream; and all that I had seen and heard was nothing else but an insubstantial phantasm.

But seeing strange apparitions mailed up in armour of a marvellous oddness, and standing partly within, and partly without the door of my bedchamber, I said, Good Roger, whom have we yonder, in war trim awaiting; and in what sort of armour are they ensconced withal!

Said Roger: In respect of the three hindmost, who bare spits and sickles for assault, and potlids for defence, truly they be none other but the poor women servants of thine house; whereof the lagmost, in the seething-pot helmet and dripping pan cuirass, as her bigness doth more fully set forth, its mistress Johanna, thy poor cook.

Howbeit when Roger perceived that the matter was still too hard for me, and that his explanation did but the rather tend to my greater perplexedness, he began to report things of more antecedency; whence there came proof that myself was prime causator of the alarm and hostile array concerning which I now made inquisition: and that it was mine own cries unto HISTORY, to come and expulse the Bubbsses and the Fubbsses, that had aroused mine household, who presently in the kitchen assembled to arm themselves; and with copper and wooden bucklers and tin cuisses and vambraces, to prepare for the slaughter, conquest or putting to flight of whomsoever should be found with ill intents in my bedchamber. In their haste, as well for braving of dangers as for escape, some took up for their weapon or shield one thing and some another; nor was the need of godly preparation in the haste forgotten: but my louder cries demanding more expedition, Roger spake something unto the case pertinent, wherefrom all drew comfortable assurance; when, with their armour on, they straightway set forwards and advanced through the passages leading to my bedchamber in the manner and form following; that is to say: After Roger came Jacob; to Jacob succeeded Martin; then next followed my two poor wenches, Peggy and Barbara; Mistress Johanna bringing up the rearward, in a stout and right brave sort, to my chamber door; where posted on either side, they remained in ambuscado, whilst Roger alone advanced to my bedside.

All which being to my many questions duly set forth in answer, I said, Good Roger, I do now plainly perceive that with an admirable discretion, thou hast also the piousness, yea and modesty likewise, of a brave commander and a true; in that thou hast a full report delivered of all things wherein the daring of these thy fellows deserveth commendation, whilst of thine own good leadership a scant advertisement appeareth. But wherefore, good Roger, barest thou mine arquebuss, seeing that no matchlock hath been thereon since the day mine ancestor bare it, when he led on, as tradition doth report, the arquebussiers in the battle of Tewkesbury?

Quoth Roger:—In regard to rogues and false knaves, of every degree, by whatsoever means they may come by other things, they must needs come honestly by their deaths, in any shape; and truly for mine own part, I had as lief knock a rogue on the head as shoot him through the body.

Now this being delivered, though not in the manner of the schoolmen and casuists, yet it was the speech of one that hath within him the pith and substance of things, which Cicero, with his naturalness and brevity, calleth the *silva*, and the *supellex*, whence whatsoever hath estimation cometh; wherefore I refrained from further questing, and said, Good Roger, for thy bold and faith-

ful services, and for the non-casuisticalness of thy report, thou shalt hereafter, as shall likewise thy fellows, be compensated and have each his due requital. But first, bring them hither to receive my thanks; for wherefore should they remain longer at the door? Answer was made that under their armour they had little else but night clothing, by reason of the suddenness of the alarm; and on this hint they departed to disarray, and to put on beseeming habits, wherein they presently assembled at my bed side as had been desired.

Then, after thanks and right hearty commendations duly delivered, I commanded that Mistress Johanna prepare for the good knaves, mine ancient bowl of the best ale, the same to be well mulled, and to have a good sop and plenteous spices in it; which being done, they did, sitting reverently in a row at my bedside, right pleasedly begin to drink; whilst Mistress Johanna and the affrighted wenches partook with me of a bowl of metheglin, and some sack posset, which I likewise commanded to be prepared and set before me on the bed, wherefrom I filled them cups, sitting in a row on the other side.

The good varlets, when they had well nigh finished the third tankard, were fain to discuss at large divers matters heroically; the which, for a season, I did in a sort allow: but finding every subject teemful with new and more stirring matters, and overhearing certain premonishments that presently Jacob would commence a song of love and the wars, as the whole dolesomeness thereof should be set forth at large in forty-and-seaven verses, for which he had much commendation in the vicinage, I prevented him; and with repetitions of thanks for all their good intents and services had and done unto me, I commanded the pleased knaves to-bed; in which I was instantly obeyed.

Then turning towards Mistress Johanna and the gladdened wenches, I gave the like thanks and commandment, with some cautions touching the securing of chamber doors; as likewise concerning sundry errors and household mischances whereunto late hours and dark passages do sometimes lead: all which advisings being delivered on wholesome authority, with something superadded from Saynt Jerome his works, concerning temptation, wherefrom the women had much edification, with a comfortable assurance of safety, they did also retire.

Thus was I left alone again; and the cup of metheglin which I had taken, chiming in a most delectant concord with all mine own humours and wonted disposures of mind and body, with much musing of my dream I did gently glide into it again, as if no interruption had happened: yea, on the contrariwise, it presently became of a more seeming sureness and verity than before; as in comprobation whereof divers other matters and sequent issues must now be set forth in order.

VISION IV.

THE COURT.

THE COURT, AT THE BREAKING UP OF A LEVEE.—A QUARREL BETWEEN TWO MAIDS OF HONOUR.—THE QUEEN ENTERS, ROYALLY ATTENDED.—HER MAJESTY IS DISCONCERTED BY THE INCREASING NUMBER OF PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS OF DISTRESS, AND INQUIRES THE CAUSE. THE COURTIERS GIVE EVASIVE ANSWERS.—HISTORY CLOSES THE COURT SCENE, BUT CONTINUES TO PRESENT AND WITHDRAW A SUCCESSION OF OTHERS, ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE DOWNWARD CURRENT AND FORCE OF EXAMPLE.

METHOUGHT I was again seated in my chair, and that presently I began to hear sounds of music ; not as they shake the concaved roofs of sacred fanes, and make purer the upraised souls of men in resonant and stately anthems, nor as they linger in a contenting sweetness at the close thereof ; but rather as the trumpets' loud braying dieth away in moderated concords, and retiring drums are gradually dulled into inaudibleness : and methought that I now beheld, in the extended scene before me, gilded furniture, curtains and hangings of delicate textures, with pendant fringes, quaint toys and devices of cunning workmanship ; and all shining, as well with diverseness of colour as with polished silver and gold. Gorgeous mirrors did likewise reflect mine own image on every side, and the images of things both commodious, and fantastical to look upon, whose names, estimation and uses were alike unto me unknown. Over mine head also were dispreaded fields of azure, with angels disporting therein ; while some did seem to smile as they looked down from between russet clouds at the far-off terrestrials, who sat laving their fair limbs in crystal streams, or with cups of nectar did pledge their fellows in roseate coverts and delightful bowers. Dainty odours addressed the charmed sense ; and of the music, which had now wholly ceased, there did still remain upon me the effects of a continuance.

Presently, you shall understand, there did come into this marvellous royal chamber two fair damsels in brave attire ; unto whom I was minded to arise and pay duteous salutations, supposing them to be RELIGION and JUSTICE come again in new attires, in which I was clean mistaken, as their countenances and speech did soon testify : wherefore I moved not, but intently did regard their procedures, and listened for such gracious speech as damsels in such

worshipful case should have need to use. Whereof it came to pass that I was advertised the one was the honourable Mistress D—, and the other the Lady Belinda M.—; and furthermore, that they were servitresses both, after an honourable sort, unto her Highness the Queen's excellent Majesty.

The Honourable Mrs D— did command a certain handmaid of a commoner quality to come in and set in order a chair of surpassing richness for the Queen's Majesty; whilst the Lady Belinda did desire another to dispose divers curtains, lattices, and pendant stuffs and infoldings, in such wise that the chamber should be somewhat darkened, lest the Queen's Majesty's eyes should be discomforted with too much light. Then the Honourable Mrs. D— commanded that there be fetched in a vessel of rare flowers to stand upon the Queen's Majesty's table; and the Lady Belinda did further command that there be laid open a fair book, wherein her Highness the Queen's Majesty should be minded to read. After many other commands, and much observation to the intent that all things should have a commodious adaptness for the Queen's Grace's use, the handmaidens departed, and the two gentlewomen remained, interchanging looks of anger, but I wist not of their speech, if aught did in words ensue: but scarce had the handmaidens departed ere the two gentlewomen noted a certain royal hassock, or footstool, covered with fair white damask, gathered up into cunning knots and pendant ornaments at the four corners, and bedighted round about with incrinklements and crimson fringes; the same being for her Highness the Queen's Grace to rest her princely foot upon. Hence did arise a question, and sequent argument, both warm and grievous to hear; the issue being whether of the twain should take up the same and set it before her Highness the Queen's Majesty's chair.

In this contendment I was presently certified that although the progenitors on both sides did of a surety come in with the Conqueror, yet that the grandsire of the Honourable Mistress D— was of no higher degree than a yeoman, being a very tillman and trafficker in bread-corn and vetches; and that an uncle of the Lady Belinda did vend leather in a certain borough, to wit Sellborough; whereof he was a burgess, and did vote at the election last past for one of a certain ill party called the Fubbsites. Then the Lady Belinda did incontinently commence a fierce impeachment against all the tillmen, artificers and petty dealers and chapmen in the interest of a certain other naughty faction called the Bubbsites, to the exaltation of which, both in court and parliament, it further appeared, on a like credible advisement, that the D—s were in a like zealous manner disposed. I marvelled greatly, and not without sorrow, that so fierce a quarrel, and one, as it appeared to me, that was to be of scathful import to certain humble craftsmen and venders

of shop-wares, and to discompose a whole nation withal, should be inkindled in so fair a place, betwixt two of the gentlewomen of the Queen's Grace's royal bedchamber, and all for so facile a matter as the placement of her Majesty's Highness' footstool; and I did moreover feel much fear in respect of the issue, lest scratches and blows, after the manner of the lewder sort, should ensue,—when suddenly was thrown open a stately door, and there spake one in a loud voice of commandment, Make way for the Queen's Majesty! Whereupon the two gentlewomen together ran to the footstool, conjointly to take up the same, in the which their heads did meet together in a concussion right rustically; wherefrom their tires and fontanges had much endamage, and were discomposed into a misbeseeming wryness. This being done, with abundant grace, as also with smiles, commendable and comfortable to behold, they did right lovingly turn themselves towards the door which had been thrown open; whereat was heard the approach of creaking and stately footsteps, with the rustling of silks, rich brocades and costly stuffs, and the tinklings of royal ornaments; and there incontinently entered bedighted pages, and divers great lords and officers of the court, bearing the badges and ensigns of their several dignities and duties, and shining in gold, and silver, and bravest attires. Then next did come in a company of honourable maidens, fair and beauteous to behold; in the midst whereof, and out-shining all others, did walk the Queen's Majesty's Highness, habited in a flowing robe of lustrings, with intertissues of an admirable weftage; the train whereof being borne up and carried after, in most royal sort, by ladies of a right worshipful quality. Upon the head of her Highness the Queen's Majesty was set a circlet of shining gold; diamonds and pretious gems did glitter in the curvities, windings and recesses thereof; and intermingled with the tresses and right pleasant and lovesomest appendications about the Queen's Majesty's princely fair neck, as likewise upon the Queen's Majesty's arms, hands, and fingers also, there shone jewels of surpassing estimation.

Thus was the Queen's Grace, with all homaged and duteous assistance, seated in her Majesty's proper royal chair; and her Highness, after the manner of a right princely puissancy, smiled; whereupon the great lords incontinently bended themselves and did smile also; and all the gentlewomen did likewise dispose themselves in their several proper postures of duty; insomuch that whithersoever the Queen's Highness did look, there was to be noted a marvellous configuration of pleasantness. But whilst I did feel much beholden to HISTORY for shewing me this scene majestical, I bended forwards to muse thereon, and did note somewhat of an unpleas'dness in many of the court smiles; yea and in the lowest of the bended homages was a like deficiency of true satisfaction. And when the Queen's Grace had been rested and refreshed, as must needs be,

after the great duties of her Highness' queenly state had been accomplished, her Grace began some question touching the levee that had just been concluded; and in special concerning divers petitions and memorials of distress, and the great increase thereof; as likewise concerning certain loud conclamations, (other than those of plausiveness) which had proceeded from a press of the commonalty who had beleagured the ingressures of the court.

Howbeit unto her Majesty the Queen's Highness' questions all the courtiers did frame their answers with an evading obliqueness; protesting that her Highness the Queen's Grace's court did more and more attract unto itself whatsoever was of a worshipful quality, as well from these her Grace's own proper realms allegiant, as from foreign principedoms and parts beyond the seas: but as touching the cries of the petitionary commonalty, none did make answer. Whereat the Queen's Highness grew plainly dissatisfied, and demanded wherefore they answered not,—but still they said not a word; and when that methought the Queen waxed wroth, and again demanded of them anew, and severally, what should be the meaning of the cries, the first in his answer was fain to make his excuse that the duties of the presence had ingaged his sole attention; the next spake of the loudness of the trumpets and sounds plausible; others pleaded catarrhs and deafness: Wherefore the Queen incontinently quitted her state and did retire to an inner chamber; and the courtiers being dismissed from further attendance in the presence also retired to their appointed places of abidance, marvelling that the Queen's Grace should command the addresses petitionary to be kept for her Grace's further queenly perusal and consideration; the established usage being to destroy them, as soon as the show was ended. Others did wonder to see the pass things were come to, when absonate questions should arise from the clamours of an hungry rabble, and should discomfort a whole court on this wise.

Here an hand waved, and the scene of the court was on a sudden closed up. And methought I now found that HISTORY had stood by me during all the time that had interlapsed since the mad doings of the Bubbsees and the Fubbsees, albeit I saw her not. But now, finding her at my side, and being still minded to have further conference touching their ill habits and procedures, which must doubtless be of ill effect over the morals and manners of all subordinates, even down to the very lazars and beggars;—HISTORY, as her office and manner of unreservedness have ever been, towards whomsoever shall in a docible spirit seek her counsels, prevented my question by her own foreprepared answer, saying—Yea, it is even as thou hast surmised and been admonished; being that ill influences are ever prone downwards, and run both concurrent and divergent, to an extent whereto thine own unaided forethinking could scarce have led thee.

Then HISTORY again stretched forth her pen-pointed hand, and at every wafture thereof there did appear and disappear scene after scene, even as one would turn over the leaves of a picture-book; each presenting, with HISTORY's explanations, something pertinent to the manner wherein self-love and ill-example, as amongst the Bubbsees and the Fubbsees, conjointly draw downwards; so that whatsoever degree doth come intervenient, is fain to play the counterfeit, and to put on its own peculiar show of false lights and corruptive attractions; lest any stain shall appear on the outward and seeming fair surface of social life. And in this common endeavour to prevent the surface of what should come to be called "respectability" from being seen through, cracked, flawed or stained, there appeared many, as well those of over-generous and confiding natures, as others from induced resentments, oppressions, infirmities of purpose, or unavoidable misadventure, who did seem unto me to fail and fall together as concised members, or exfoliations from incurable wounds and sores in the body social; and together did rankling remain at the common foundation.

VISION V.

THE SABBATARIANS.

AT THE DREAMER'S INTREATY HISTORY STAYS HER HAND, TO INDULGE HIM WITH A PROLONGED VIEW OF AN ASSEMBLY OF PROFESSED SABBATARIANS.—BEING WELL PLEASSED WITH THEIR APPARENTLY PIOUS ZEAL, HE CRAVES PERMISSION TO ARISE FROM HIS CHAIR AND APPROACH THEM; TO WHICH RELIGION COMES IN AND GIVES HER ASSENT.—HE APPROACHES THE SABBATARIANS, BUT IS REPELLED BY MEANS WHICH, WITH ALL POSSIBLE DELICACY, HE ENDEAVOURS TO DESCRIBE.

ONE picture of a seeming devout company called Sabbatarians, seated at a table, did much take my regard; in that they were resolved to have a more strait observance of the Sabbath: wherefore, ere the same should be again dislimned, I besought HISTORY that she would be pleased for a season to stay her hand, that I might arise and approach them, to hear somewhat of their godly communings and interparlances. Unto my request HISTORY made answer that she would have conference with RELIGION in that behalf; which being had, RELIGION, again supported by JUSTICE, came to my chair, and said:—Good man, arise; and go in peace, as nigh unto the Sabbatarians as thou list and shalt find contentive.

Then methought I arose ; and after low obeisances paid and done unto the ministering sisters, turned and set forwards toward the Sabbatharians' table : but scant had I gone six paces in my progression, when there did meet me an unpleasing odour ; the which, at every nearer step, waxed still more unsweet and discommodious ; insomuch that ere I could reach the hithermost of the company, there was gathered about me a thick and pestilent vapour, with the ill savour and noisomeness whereof my breath was clogged in such hurtful sort, that I was fain to escape back to my chair, and incontinently did so, else my breathing must perforce have ceased, and I had fallen dead upon the floor. Howbeit, whilst I held fast to the side of my chair, and with sore throes did labour to win back my breath, and to overcome the defædation and mine own grievous hurt, HISTORY in a sort smiled upon me ; and JUSTICE, with her own pure hand, did partly hide her face : but when I turned to note how RELIGION did regard my choking and sore travail, she was grieved withal. And when, at length, I was become able to speak, I demanded wherefore should the Sabbatharians have this unsweet odour ? Alas, answered RELIGION, it is for that these thou seest lack sincerity. Whereat I was minded to express my amazement, in that so great a seeming godliness should be consorted with vileness, or ought that was unreal,—but RELIGION prevented me with her own further speech in that behalf, saying :—

Ever sacred and blessed be the Sabbath ; whereon the weary have rest, the simple hear the words of heavenly instruction, and the iron hand of the taskmaster and persecutor is stayed. Be it ever kept holy ; for it is a season meet for inquiries concerning the mighty and beautiful works of the CREATOR, and for devout services and thanks for all His loving kindnesses, as well unto the body as the soul of man. It is a day on which it behoveth rich and poor sinners alike, to consider, in their churches, chambers, fields and gardens, how much and grievously they have all offended, and have been disprofited, by the errors of the times that are past ; and by so much to make firm resolves to live and to act to the contrariwise for the future. But as touching thy question : know that it is the hypocrisy of those that yonder sit, who would fain have one law for the rich and another for the poor ; and would set up a sort of godliness of their own, that should consist only in things of cunning and cruelty ; and such as, by degrees, should turn the blessed Sabbath into an occasion of bitter discontent to the needy, whose slightest errors they are swift to detect, and of a baser homage to the wealthy, whose rank offences and more glaring sins they see not ;—it is this their rank hypocrisy that hath disgusted thee. Judge, then, seeing that thou, being but a man, for the nonce possessed with quicker perceptions, art grieved, offended, and hurted on this wise, how the purer dwellers and spiritual intelligencers of the heavenly realms,

from whose clear overlooking no good nor ill work of man can be hidden, nor fail to be reported, shall be grieved and offended at the sight of these unblushing mammonists and their filthy procedures.

After RELIGION spake these words, she took JUSTICE by the hand, and again departed, sorrowing; when HISTORY, with a sudden motion, did shut up the scene.

VISION VI.

THE UNHAPPY SONG-MAKER.

THE DREAMER INQUIRES INTO HIS CASE.—HISTORY EXPLAINS IT.—
THE MANAGER OF A NATIONAL THEATRE REMONSTRATES WITH
HIS POET, SETTING FORTH SUNDRY PARTICULARS OF HIS COMPLAINT
AGAINST HIM, AND SPURNS HIM FROM HIS DOOR.—THE POET THERE-
UPON RETIRES TO HIS MISERABLE ABODE, AND POISONS HIMSELF.
—THE INQUEST AND VERDICT.

ONE other scene of the downward progress of senseless influences, wherein the ruinate and blighted remnant of a gentleman was seated on his lonely pallet, holding a phial in his hand, and making plaintful descants on his wayward fate, did much take my regard; and I besought HISTORY, ere this scene should be dislimned from my memory, that she would be pleased to recall it for an instant, or to stay her fleeting presentments, while she related unto me somewhat of his tristful case.

Said HISTORY: Thou rememberest, a few scenes ago, how one in authority did push out and kick from his door another of no authority; being that the latter was nothing but an inditer of books and a composer of songs and interludes for the public diversion. He that did thus soundly cuff the poor song-maker is called a Manager; because he doth in such heedful sort manage the songs and interludes to be nightly sung and enacted in the chiefest city, (whereto all others intently look for the most approved novities,) that they shall have no meaning in them, nor application to the more prevalent wants and errors of human life; but that instead thereof, they shall be composed of so unmeaning a fantasticalness that the sight seers shall be amused therewith, and diverted from matters of far deeper and more worthy concernment.

I said unto HISTORY that I had not forgotten the scene, neither had I wholly forgotten the matter of complaint whereof the Manager spake; as mine own recital of the substance thereof should here testify:—

Dost think, said the Manager, with extreme incensement ; dost think, said he, that I will have meaning in my songs, thou plain-spoken villain ? Thinkest thou that I have builded up and garnished with mirrors, with silken and gilded toys, with silvered hangings and carnation taffeties this play-house royal for meanings, thou yea-forsooth caitiff ? Have I not told thee, times and oft, that I have a patronage too high for meanings ; and that to have such in my songs would eftsones prove my undoing ? And yet, here thou bringest unto me, that need only the kickshaws of non-significancy, a mess of rank meanings, thou matter-of-fact knave ! Furthermore, thou knowest that in the subject matter of thy songs, as likewise in the wording thereof, thou hast ever had a plenary latitude of choosing ; insomuch that I take none exception to a rose, nor unto ought that pertaineth unto love ; whether it be with girl-angels, tutored and fashioned only to be looked at, or with boy-angels, as the latter shall be entered on ship-board, or enlisted in the land-service ; and that thou mayest carol to thine infinite contenting unto larks, dew-drops, hay-makers, fairies, bees and butterflies : moreover, for illustration whereof, in such wise that there shall be found no resemblance unto ought that is natural, as in the extrication of wards from the clutches of ill guardians, or as in foiling and rendering of none effect the ill devices of hate, or waywardness, or any other evil that is but infernal or only imaginary ; as of bandits, or outlaws, or dogged uncles, or haggish aunts ; or in respect of whatsoever ill spirits the play-seers shall find content withal : right well thou knowest that in all these things the aids of poisoning, stabbing, fiddling, hacking and hewing, as likewise of red combustion and devilish blowings up, have in no case been withholden from thee. And yet, nathless all this mine unstinted licence given and granted over all words and things that are but unmeaning and impossible, and the aids, aforesaid, of fiddle, fire, and fury, hither hast thou come, with thy vaulted eyebrows and thy whistling lips, to offer unto me a song with plain meanings in it ! Out upon thee, thou intelligible varlet ! thou shalt never enrhyme bower and flower, nor coo and two for me again.

HISTORY made acknowledgment of my true report of the substance of all that had been spoken and enlimned, touching the Manager and the Song-Maker ; and to my further question concerning the latter, answered that after several days and nights of prayer, and of repentance ; of prayer for pardon, and repentance that he should have prostituted his talents to unworthy uses ; with horrors of public disfavour, frowning friends, fear of starvation, and sore grief and bitterness of heart, he drank a cup of poison, and died ; and that on the lawful inquest of twelve men, of approved respectableness, and the evidence of the Manager, of whom he was last seen alive, the inditer of a song with meaning in it was on grave advise-

ment found to have been insane ; and so they said all : and upon oath did their deliverance make of insanity as their conjoint verdict.

VISION VII.

THE SMARTISTS.

CAUSES OF SMARTISM, GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.—AN AGED PILGRIM ENTERS THE SMARTISTS' ASSEMBLY.—ONE OF THEM ENDEAVOURS TO PICK A QUARREL WITH HIM, BUT IN HIS EAGERNESS, HURTS HIMSELF.—THE PRESIDENT CALLS THE PILGRIM TO ACCOUNT ; BUT WITH NO BETTER SUCCESS.—A GENERAL ASSAULT IS THEN MADE UPON HIM, BUT IT IS ATTENDED ONLY BY A GENERAL INJURY ; THE OLD PILGRIM HIMSELF REMAINING INVULNERABLE AND INTANGIBLE.—THE ASSAILERS FINALLY SUE FOR PEACE ; WHICH IS GRANTED ON TERMS SINGULAR IN FORM, BUT ADVANTAGEOUS IN EFFECT.

As touching the non-respectables, concerning whom HISTORY spake aforetime, and did set forth that doubtless they should be many, as well persons of a born baseness and bezonian nurture, as others made infamous by their own black shadows of affliction, their many oppressions, misadventures or sottish ignorances ; whence it must needs be that they shall wax discontented and ungovernable withal. HISTORY now spake further in that behalf ; saying, that such ungovernables should not merely exist, but should in time come to be enleagued together for divers undesirable purposes : for albeit poor, and of none accompt in respect of many things, the wretched do oft-times grow to be mighty occasioners of fears and troubles in pryncedoms and estates ; their tractable qualities being neglected, and their many wrongs being together left in a condition of wildness or rankling discontent, they prove severe avengers of both the quality's negligence and their own ill usage. As in evidence should now be presented certain of the discontented, which shall come in time to be called Smartists ; by reason of the divers smarting causes and effects which shall drive them into a confraternity, to withstand the further encroachments of the respectables ; and whilst thou art entertained with their proceedings, I shall depart for a season. Shouldest thou be taken with the amusiveness of what thou shalt observe, it shall not be amiss to note also the sum and argument thereof ; for in the very errors of the most ignorant of complainers there shall oft-times be found somewhat worthy the noting of good men and wise, and such as shrink not from a

stedfast looking into ill causes, being that they may thereby, of a greater surety, foreknow their ill effects.

Here, on a sudden, with the wonted motion of her hand, HISTORY opened a new scene, and herself vanished out of my sight.

Now was presented unto me many conventioners of the Smartists, assembled for consultation and for admission of new comers into the bands of membership. There was seated, in a sort of mock state, a president, smeethed with forge labours, aproned with leather, and coiffed with dun paper : holding in one hand a mallet, and in the other a roll of parchment, or paper, whereon was written, The Smarter. The Smartists were much unlike the Bubbsees and the Fubbsees, in that they were mostly agreed in their purpose ; and the divers new comers, having all fitness in respect of swartedness, grievances, and fierce resentments, did find no let nor hindrance to their acceptance as the confreres of the Smartists.

Presently, you shall understand, an aged and bended pilgrim, dusty and wayworn, and leaning upon a staff, entered the assembly ; and with a limping slowness he betook him on his way towards the chief ; at sight whereof the confusion was somewhat stilled, and the pilgrim was stopped by many questioners together demanding wherefore he, being old and unhelpful, was come into the Smartists' assembly ?

The pilgrim answered that he sought admittance to the intent that he should be found of service. Whereat there brake forth exceeding much laughter ; at the subsiding whereof one Shootbolt demanded whereabouts should be his eldership's age ?

The pilgrim answered that he was by many years too old to certify.

By'r Lady, then, said Shootbolt, thou art, by the same number of years, too old for our need.

How should that be ? demanded the pilgrim ; sith that with the ancient is wisdom, which thou lackest more than all things else.

Quoth Shootbolt : Ancientness serveth not for the peizing of a club, master ; nor wisdom for the disrupting of a tyrant's weasand. Marry, can'st handle a pike ?

No, said the pilgrim ; I cannot forsooth handle a pike : but I can, in a sort, handle them that do.

Now this answer of the pilgrim did in no wise content the Smartists ; being they thought him plainly a contemner of their league and intendments ; and many would fain have smit him, but refrained in respect of his age and seeming unhelpfulness. At length, being appealed to by the whole band of conventioners, the chief said unto the pilgrim :—Master, whatsoever thou hast power to do, thou shalt find it no disablement to show a more mannerly bearing in this presence.

Whereto the pilgrim replied : as I am, even so ye have yourselves,

with others of higher degree, but scarce thine equals in wisdom, conspired to make me ; and so must I needs remain : for the wisest will not openly attempt to withstand my admonishments, and the unwise cannot, without hurt unto themselves.

Sayest thou so ? quoth Shootbolt : then incontinently making a fierce pass at the pilgrim, to inforce a more mannerly submission, he missed him ; and falling roughly against somewhat, sorely bruised himself.

Then others gathered around and began to assault the pilgrim with the divers tools and implements of their several crafts ; and some struck at him with clubs and piked staves ; but all missed him, and did, with the blows and cuts aimed at the pilgrim, sorely wound each other. Unto me, who from a distance beheld the strife, the pilgrim was as one plainly visible, and having a capacity of speech ; but in respect of substance, intangible or afflatant merely : being that I plainly saw a tailor's goose fly clean through him, and divers pikes and spears did likewise pass through his body, and return again as it were but a vapour ; whilst hammers and clubs descended upon his head, but they touched nothing and harmed him not.

So when the assailers found that they clave only each other, and that instead of smiting the pilgrim, or prevailing on him to change his tone, or putting him in any fear, they gat only hurts unto themselves, they were fain to desist ; both for easement of their several pains and self-bruisings, and to give heed unto such further speech in respect of Smartism, or other matters, as he should be minded to offer. Seeing that he stood in his wonted staidness, unhurt and invulnerable, and still minded to offer only the words of sober and needful instruction, they were sore amazed ; while some, that were desperatest in the onslaught, now spake dispraisingly of violence, and especially of Shootbolt's too much haste to give offence. And truly I was myself troubled that a visitor so seeming antique and harmless, should have had shewed unto him no more civility than pertaineth to pikes and clubs.

But ere the chief had concluded his advisings with his fellows, touching the pilgrim, the whole band resolved to hear what else he was minded to say ; and first, for peace' sake, and a politick civility, it was agreed they should every one, as well the chief as the others, take him by the hand, in token of a reverend and fast friendship. Wherefore all being again gathered round, for confirmation of the compact, it came to pass that as they one by one essayed to take the pilgrim by the hand, it proved nothing so ; for instead of an hand, each man laid hold on a tractate, book, picture, or infolded sheet of imprinted paper ; which being opened, spake intelligibly unto every separate receiver, somewhat unto his own folly pertinent ; shewing how that the same hath, in all times and by whom-

soever infected therewith, proved his undoing or o'erclouding grief. Many had solemn warning that blood-shedding was of all the ways of seeking redress most unblest. Others were advised that of all things next to bread, they most needed instruction. Unto some it was made known that union ever prevaieth more than numbers, and that it troubleth not the wolves to know in howsoever great force numerical the sheep design to make war upon them. To the generality, it was made clear that they were themselves their own most tyrannous enslavers and basest betrayers; being that in their eager craving after taxed poisons, they did invoke, each his own fiery tyrant, to come and plant his proud foot on his poor slave's neck; concerning which many laid hold on pictures, which spake unto them plainer than words.

Whilst the attention of the Smartists was thus diverted, and each several conventioner had laid hold on somewhat to his own folly relevant, the old pilgrim himself disappeared; and left them occupied, each man with his own inquiry. I had scant time to reflect upon all I had seen and heard ere HISTORY returned in her wonted attire. I began some question concerning the old pilgrim and the raw and turbulent Smartists; but HISTORY prevented me by saying she must now again to court; and with that there passed away the scene of the Smartists.

VISION VIII.

COURT MUSIC.

FINDING THE COURT MUSICIANS TO BE ALL FOREIGNERS, THE DREAMER IMAGINES THAT DOWN TO THE TIMES PREFIGURED, ENGLAND SHALL HAVE PRODUCED NOTHING WORTHY OF COURT PATRONAGE; BUT ERE HISTORY HAS TIME TO ANSWER HIM, THE COURT MUSIC STRIKES UP AND ANSWERS FOR ITSELF.

THEN methought were shewed other scenes of the court, whereof one was musical; commandment being given that there be forthwith brought into the chamber of presence divers cunning musicians and singers, both men and women; whereat I was right glad, and prayed HISTORY to stay awhile her depicting hand; being that Music, provided the composure thereof be in part of solemn state, part of a dulcet and appeasing tenderness, and all natural and well suited in regard of both theme and purpose; wherein, as Virgil saith, *organu sensuum cum organis reflectionum conveniunt*, it commendeth itself both to the understanding and the gentler senses of

the true listener ; and hath moreover a power to instill and advance designs of nobleness ; as likewise to assuage the travail of minds ill at ease. Unto my prayer HISTORY gave heed, and for a short season kept open the scene.

But when the whole band was come into the Queen's Highness' presence, I noted that they spake only Italian and sang mostly in their noses ; wherefore I drew this inference, that down to the time when these foreshadowings shall have fulfilment, there shall have been in England no philologers, nor poets, nor musicians, nor profound thinkers, nor impassioned imaginers ; whose works should have commended the nation's language, its dignity and its genius, to its own court. And hence, though HISTORY had been silent, I had been certified that the whole quire now present must be foreigners, and doubtless, for the most part, from a country whence, in the days of old, there came imperators and law-givers to reduce into a subjection tributary all nations by force of arms.

Said HISTORY : Except in so far as concerneth the onward progress of the most worthy and least estimated in this nation, in all the richness of language and true royalty of thought, thou hast rightly surmised ; and now mark what strange things shall come to pass ! First, as touching the descendants of the conquerors and the law-givers : in their corrupted posterity the conquerors shall come to be the fiddlers ; and the law-givers shall be the dancers and grimaciers to their sometime vassals : meanwhile the vassals, albeit certain shall be risen to greatness in the empery of mind, others shall, by the prevalent ill customs and misbeseeming influences of their day, come to fancy themselves happy to be holden in a bondage contributory by force of fiddlesticks ; the which, for impudence and insolence of extortion, shall prove to many no less tyrannous than was the sceptre of Tarquin, or that more ancient emblem of authority, the *hasta*, whereof Justin hath something noted.

Here methought on a sudden there brake forth certain fiddles and divers other instruments of music, in a quickness and rampancy of fingering, and incontineny of sound, such as the ear, in all her inner windings and mystic recesses, hath no resting place, nor hath the sensorium chambers wherein to collect and apprehend the measure, and to accord the due commendation to the air and melody thereof ; and when there was found only the like extravagance and loudness, as well of voices as of instruments, with sometimes a furor diatonick, with ever and anon unmeasured vaultings, nose trillings, and transposures saltatory, from one wildness to another, I was minded to note how the Queen's Grace did relish so great and unnatural admixture of fierceness and discongruity ; and sooth to say, her Highness did seem right well pleased therewith : but not to indulge in an over-fastidiousness concerning princes' tastes, whereto there be much that serveth for admission of endamage-ment,

and therefore pleadeth for excuse ;—seeing what snares, temptations, flatteries and besetting ills princes are daily environed withal ;—nor to imagine that every prince must needs have a Polybius his taste in a matter of so great pureness,—such a fantasticalness in music as was here shewed forth, albeit it commendeth itself not unto the soul, nor to any sense intellectual, as did the most simplest hymnings of Arcadian quires, it doth doubtless stir up the animal spirits ; which be ever strongest in those whose wills have been least held in a docible subjection. Wherefore I was certified that in the days when these foreshadowings should have fulfilment, there shall prevail an ill fashion in music ; insomuch that whoso, perchance, should in those far off times obtain highest favour therein, might demand, as did Phocion, when applauded by certain Athenians of the ruder sort, what it was that he had done amiss ?

Thou hast well wot the matter, said HISTORY : for a time indeed cometh, one ill fashion whereof shall be that this nation shall suffer rude slights in her music and musicians ; and in part justly :—for their own ignorance in regard to its true dignity and uses, and their own too much and slavish looking to court favour.

Herewith was closed the scene musicall.

VISION IX.

THE QUEEN AND LORD GLOZEOVER.

THE QUEEN'S ATTENTION, AS IT APPEARS IN A FORMER VISION, BEING CALLED TO CERTAIN PETITIONS OF THE HUMBLER CLASSES, HER MAJESTY IS AT LENGTH MOVED THEREBY, AND REQUIRES LORD GLOZEOVER'S ADVICE.—HIS LORDSHIP ENDEAVOURS TO EVADE THE SUBJECT ; BUT THE QUEEN ALARMS HIM BY HER PERTINACIOUS ADHERENCE TO HER PURPOSE.—THE CONFERENCE ENDS GREATLY TO HIS LORDSHIP'S DISCOMFORT.—HE IS DISMISSED TO HIS BRETHREN OF THE CABINET TO PREPARE A MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH FOR THE OPENING OF THE PARLIAMENT, ON THE MORROW.

METHOUGHT that presently I again beheld the Queen's beauteous Majesty, seated in a smaller chamber, and by royal command there came with scanty any ceremony into the presence, a certain lord, of an easy carriage, being chief of the council royal ; and whom the Queen's Grace did call Lord Glozeover. With this Lord her Highness had some conference ; the beginning, conduct and ending whereof was in substance as here in brief followeth :—

Said the Queen's Majesty : I would fain be advised with somewhat further, concerning the addresses petitionary, and the loud

conclamations also, whereby mine estate royal hath of late been discommoded, even in the chamber of presence.

Said Lord Glozeover : Your Majesty hath singular wisdom in all things ; yea, even in propounding matters questionary, there may be plainly seen a deep and searching inspection into every difficulty of state, and the path royal to a safe and unerring solution.

Said the Queen's Highness : Thou answerest after the manner of the courtiers that are to be read of in books, whereof no present profit cometh ; nor can there be perceived in that thou hast advised aught of relevancy to the question.

Said Lord Glozeover : Your Majesty's Highness doth daily attain to such excellency in all the wisdom of government, that truly to be but a courtier, under your Grace's Queenly estate, requireth more learning and graveness than sufficeth for the most highest offices of trust in the courts of ordinary princes.

Said the Queen's Grace : None of my counsel shall henceforward have need to perplex themselves with the masking stuff and bootless imaginings of vain cozeners ; for I am resolved to know the causes of these complaints and growing discontents, and to discharge the princely duties thereto pertinent.

Now you shall know that when Lord Glozeover found the Queen's Grace was on this wise resolved to hear none other but plain advisements, and would be neither diverted nor discourseled therefrom, he was sorely perplexed ; and doubted not that he had been supplanted in the favour of the court. Wherefore he made answer that as touching the conclamations, they did doubtless proceed from divers pestilent commotioners, who were instigated by a certain ill faction called the Bubbsees ; whereat the Queen's Majesty turned askaunce, and partly hiding her Grace's face with her fan, did smile right pleasantly ; insomuch that Lord Glozeover, being a man of pregnant parts, of a ripe and curious wit, and deep skilled in all princely ways, could plainly discern that his answer gave plenteous entertainment to the Queen's Highness. And seeing Her Grace was thus mirthfully disposed, while himself was in nowise inclined toward the like pleasantry, he awaited for the leading of such further questions as her Grace should be minded to ask.

Anon the Queen's Majesty did again straitly question him in respect of the attendance, as well the petitionary as the gratulant, that had pressed to the court at the late levees.

Lord Glozeover answered, that without question the levees were mirrors of true royalness, wherein whatsoever was of estimation in these realms was reflected with all princely graces superadded ; and that from beyond the seas was attracted whatsoever was rarest for wisdom, virtue, graveness, and all surpassing parts and dis-

posures ; insomuch that in the court of Britain should now be found the sum and sun of all excellency, to shoot forth and disperse rays of nobleness and true royalty to the ends of the earth.

Said the Queen: I would fain be certified that of all the benefits the estate regal can confer, my faithful people have equal and plenteous enjoyment ; and that my just dealings with all principedoms and powers in foreign lands have secured unto all staplers, artificers, husbandmen, and others within these realms, the due fruits of mine equal dealings and friendly alliances : but in my question I spake not merely of my queenly estate, nor of foreign powers, nor their ambassages, ceremonial or political, but of the contentment of mine own people also ; for methinks there be matters of complaint which must needs be forthwith examined and adjudged.

Said Lord Glozeover,—who now vainly imagined that he wist the matter of which the Queen spake : It cannot be gainsaid that the most learned, grave, and reverend convocations of Oxenford and Cantabrigia, as hath been fully shewed of late, in their loyal, dutiful, and most loving addresses, have many things whereof to complain ; as, imprimis, the papists do questionless,—

I spake not of papists, said the Queen's Highness.

And in respect of protestant dissenters, and their wayward procedures, said Lord Glozeover ; now supposing it to be of dissenters that the Queen spake :—

Nor of dissenters, said the Queen's Grace ; with some haste interrupting her chiefest counsellor : who next for refuge adverted to certain complaints embodied in an address petitionary from the Lord Mayor and corporation of the city of London.

Said the Queen's Grace, again, being by this time fretted into a mood of plain disfavour,—The Lord Mayor and his cumberous train may in like safe wise be entrusted to make their doleful complainings long ere any hardships can affect them ; or turn them an hair's breadth aside from their self-seeking ways.

Wherefore, and when that after many of the like surmises and aimings to hit the matter of her Highness the Queen's Grace's princely discomposure, and to chime in with the current thereof, Lord Glozeover was still no nearer the mark, he began, anew, to be blanked and sore discomfited ; and with inward musings and contristations awaited to catch hold of aught further that should haply transpire. Anon her Highness spake of certain other complaints which had been presented, and demanded his lordship's counsel thereon.

Said Lord Glozeover : Of a truth there be many petitions from the north.

Yea, said the Queen's Majesty ;—and from the south also : as likewise from the east, and from the west. What counsel givest

thou thereon ; for there appeareth a marvellous congreement in their complainings, and which calleth for instant inquiry.

Doubtless, said Lord Glozeover,—being that these petitionaries have no qualification, nor property, nor respectability, nor advocacy, nor voice in the parliaments ; the laws must have strict enforcement against them ; and, if need be, some new enactments must be framed for maintenance of the peace.

Nay, quoth the Queen's Grace ; that must not be : for these matters of complaint are in all places the same ; being oppression and hunger. And methinks the stringency of law will neither stay the down-crushings of oppression, nor satisfy the cravings of want : and, moreover, an obedience that is but enforced, is none other but disobedience, in bonds and galling fetters,—biding its own time and occasion for a vengeful breaking forth. Canst thou advise nothing else but law to allay or answer these petitionaries' complaints?—said the Queen's Highness, in a mood of displeasure mixed with grief:—

Nothing, most gracious Sovereign,—said Lord Glozeover, in great heaviness of spirit ; nothing, an't please your Majesty, but more troops.

More troops ! said the Queen's Grace : wherefore more troops ?

Even because the petitionaries and memorialists wax more numerous, and discontented withal ; the incommodiousness whereof must in nowise have allowance,—said Lord Glozeover.

O most lame conclusion ! exclaimed the Queen's Highness. O counsel misbeseeming ! O treasonous and poisonous instilment for a monarch's ear ! Know that far different counsels do now and shall henceforward govern my princely procedures. But haste thee to thy consociates of the council ; and early on the morrow, bring ye hither a form of speech wherewith I may, as becometh a monarch, resolved to govern righteously, address the assembled Parliament. If thy form be better than mine own, it shall have the preference ; but if not, I will address the parliament in mine own language.

In that tribulation of spirit which one day cometh upon all favourites, who vainly imagine that they shall float ever on the smooth current of princely favour, Lord Glozeover here bowed himself out of the Queen's Grace's presence ; and methought, with a slight motion of HISTORY'S pen, the scene was changed into the council chamber, called the cabinet, sitting at York House, or somewhere near about Whitehall.

VISION X.

THE CABINET COUNCIL.

THE COUNCIL, BEING AS YET IGNORANT OF THE QUEEN'S CONCERN FOR THE GENERAL DISTRESS, AND OF LORD GLOZEOVER'S TRIBULATION AT COURT, ARE FOUND PROCEEDING IN THE USUAL WAY TO PREPARE A MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH FOR THE NEXT DAY'S PAGEANT.—ONE OF THEM READS IT OVER, AS FINALLY PUT TOGETHER ; AND ALL UNITE IN COMMENDING IT FOR ITS CONFORMITY TO ESTABLISHED USAGE, AND FOR ITS BEING INTANGIBLE TO EXCEPTION.—IN THE MIDST OF THE GENERAL SATISFACTION LORD GLOZEOVER ENTERS, IN A STATE OF EXTREME PERTURBATION ; AND DISPOSES OF THE INTENDED ROYAL SPEECH IN A MOST SINGULAR MANNER.

HERE was seen a company of ten or twelve counsellors, sitting on either side of a table of state, inditing the Queen's Majesty's most gracious speech, as the same should be delivered unto the most faithful and loving parliament on the morrow ; and whereof the counsellors did severally compose passages and concise periods, and read them in connexion, for trial of their consonancy and commixed effect. But methought their inditings did require great travail of wit, by reason of three dangers which must in no wise be incurred, nor too nearly adventured : namely, the danger of truth, the danger of untruth, and that other, which aforetime brought the Song-maker to his untimely end ;— to wit, the danger of meaning. Wherefore I was myself irked withal, and almost awakened, with seeing the hardness of their labour ; being that each confessed freely unto his fellows that he was well nigh distraught with the many cares of his office, and by his tenure thereof being daily perilled ; but nevertheless they proceeded to indite smooth terms and passages gratulant ; each putting in his contribution until a most gracious speech, and of a due length, was compiled and filled up. Anon, one of the council arose and read it aloud, in tenor and effect as here followeth : viz.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It doth ever afford me abundant matter of rejoicing to greet you well in parliament assembled.

I continue to receive from all foreign potentates, pryncedoms and estates, assurances which cannot fail to give satisfaction, that nothing is to be looked for but peace from abroad ; while subjection and order are still firmly maintained at home.

Amongst the powerful and far distant tribes of the Toofaroffto-doanygoodwiths, and the Greatdealtoobads, on the western bor-

ders of mine oriental dominions, and other the outermost parts of the same, certain seditions had well nigh broken out into open rebellion; having, for their pretext, that more was already conquered than was ameliorated or protected: for suppression whereof powerful detachments of my forces militant have been sent; and in all cases the seditions have been put down by fire and sword, and their authors and deluded adherents slain, routed or dispersed.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

For the right freeness wherewith thou hast ever consented to tax thy constituents, to the end that due provision be made for the exigencies of my government, and for the disfavour thou hast ever shewn towards all complainers and ill questioners, thou hast my princely acknowledgements.

I have commanded the estimates, for the year now current, to be laid before thine assembly; and it affordeth me extreme satisfaction to be enabled to state, that in a certain item thereof, to wit the item of drumsticks, there plainly appeareth a reduction. Thou wilt not fail to see, with like satisfaction, though there be a seeming default in the state dues and sum total contributory, that both by constitutional right and long custom, an aid may be demanded to make good the same: for re-payment whereof I rely with confidence upon thy right loyal and most loving attachment to my crown and dignity; and on thy regard for thine own just privileges and antique usages, if need be, to foreingage, apportion and set apart, for ever, so much of the produce of the hand, land, trade, and the seasons, as thou shalt see occasion for; having regard in all that thou doest to the most straitest obligations of economy.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

As touching the alleged dearness and scarcity of bread corn, and the want of employment and lowness of wages, whereof the common people are ever wont to complain, or any other disquiets which arise, or may extend into, the more respectable orders of my people, I rely on the blessing of Divine Providence upon your unceasing labours of speech and legislation; upon the augmentation and judicious disposeure of my military forces; upon the establishment of an effective police on all the high and bye ways throughout the land; upon the conservation of game; upon the increase, enlargement, and strengthening of gaols; as likewise upon the salutary terrors of transportation, and certain good results, not heretofore taken into accompt, that will doubtless accrue from the silent system, and other systems and experiments in prison discipline: on all these things I rely firmly, for maintenance of public credit, and for the suppression of pauperism, popery, poaching, and other crimes; as also the rooting out of Smartism and discontent:—to the end that there shall be upholden adue respect for the laws, and a per-

petual security for the venerable institutions of my kingdom, in church and state.

When the counsellor had made an end of reading the Queen's Majesty's most gracious speech, all his fellows did highly commend the same, on account of both the matter and ingenious manner thereof; but scarce was there time for mine own full satisfaction, with regard to some of the clauses, ere Lord Glozeover in a great chafe, entered the council, and strode to his own chair, being at the head of the table. At his coming in the whole council arose to set forth anew the admirableness of the Queen's Majesty's intended most gracious speech; but Lord Glozeover was as one perturbed even to deafness and dumbness. For a season he sat at the table, whereon with one elbow rested, in his hand he bare up his head, but spake not. Then, on a sudden, laying hold on the inscripted Speech, he incontinently rent the same into fragments innumerable; which, for a season he clutched in his hands with the wild tenacity of a maniac. Anon, having drawn in his breath, as one resolved on some notable effort, he cast them forth, blowing after them a blast of so great a force and dispergency that shreds of the Queen's intended most gracious speech flew into the faces of all present; and ere the quivering and snow-like flakes thereof had descended, strawing themselves upon the counsellors' heads, on the table, and about the floor of the council-chamber, HISTORY did end the chapter and close the scene.

VISION XI.

THE ROYAL LIBRARY.

THE QUEEN IS DISCOVERED, SEATED AT A TABLE, WITH SOME LARGE VOLUMES BEFORE HER.—HISTORY ENTERS AS A SAGE VISITOR.—A DIALOGUE ENSUES BETWEEN HISTORY AND THE QUEEN, AT THE END OF WHICH THE QUEEN PROPOUNDS A QUESTION, WHEREAT THE APPEARANCE OF HISTORY IS CHANGED FROM THAT OF A SAGE TO A YOUNG COMPANION AND FAMILIAR FRIEND.—RELIGION ENTERS TO RESOLVE THE QUEEN'S PROPOSITION.—THE QUEEN FINDS THAT RELIGION AND HISTORY ARE INTIMATE FRIENDS.—THE THREE APPARENTLY ENTER INTO A LOVING COMPACT, AND THE SCENE CLOSES.

Now was observed, seated at a table, and untended, the Queen's Majesty, in a library of a princely commodiousness; wherein over divers tables, as likewise upon the walls, was curiously fitted a

rich garniture of books ; flame-coloured, silvered, flowered, embossed, gilded and disposed, with a fantasticalness such as denoteth a mind overcurious in respect of trifles. Howbeit upon a table before the Queen's Grace there were disposed, in order for perusal, divers heavy tomes, in plain covers and strong bindings ; her Grace did open certain of the same, and with an apparent right earnest desire to be instructed, began to read therein whatever should be found applicative to her Highness' princely charge.

Whilst I did peer forward to note what this should signify, there bechanced to pass my chair, one in a loose robe of plain russet, whose age and venerableness, his white beard did fully testify ; and without any motion obediential, or aught of duteous seeming, he did straightway approach the Queenly presence : wherefore, gently beckoning with mine hand, I said, in a whispered softness, Master, it were well if thou be chartered and privileged to enter, with so assured an erectness, where all else, of whatever quality, submit themselves with a bended reverence ; for know that in one step further, thou enterest into the Queen's Majesty's most excellent presence.

Whereat methought the apparition did on a sudden turn toward me, and was changed, as one in a fair raiment, such as becometh a youthy damsel, even as she did now appear ; and said unto me, Cannot you keep silent, as you have been premonished ? Wherefore I knew it was HISTORY that was come, for some purpose unto me unknown, and I spake not another word. Then did HISTORY turn herself from me again, and pass onwards, as the white-bearded sage, in his robe of russet ; and thus stood in the Queen's Grace's presence.

Said HISTORY : Behold, here I am. What wouldest thou ?

Quoth the Queen's Highness : Much as thou hast revealed already, I would fain know more ; yea all thou canst impart, touching this mine onerous estate. But first, I pray thee, tell me whether thou hast abided, with so uncliented a privacy, that until within the last fourteennight, I, even I, that had most need of thy wise tutelage, knew thee not ?

History answered : I have never been far from thee, lady ; for albeit I may be found and consulted in all places, and at all times ; yet in this sumless assemblage of recorded knowledge, collected from many ages and principdoms, even before thy princely dynasty began,—but hither stowed away in musty negligence, in the now disused parts of this seat regal,—hath been mine especial and constant abidance.

Said the Queen's Majesty : Since first thou camest before me, and spake certain engaging truths, weary woe hath been unto me the thoughts of my theretofore unweeting childishness and unprince-like ineptitude, in all the chiefest matters of sovereign duty : but

now, by God's grace, being certified thereof, in my future procedures thy counsels shall have their due regard and inforcement.

Quoth History : I heartily commend thy princely bearing and true royalty of purpose ; wherefore it shall be well that thou set and ever keep the same before thee, in presence or in thought ; not merely that thou mayest discern to pick truth out of partiality, and thyself stand clear of all misdoubtings, but that thou mayest ever have somewhat for instant confutation of the purblind waverers, base perverters, and their ill counsels, concerning which these bulky records do largely discourse.

And may one be assured, said the Queen's Grace, that no oppressor, contemner nor neglecter, of the common people, hath ever yet truly prospered as a monarch, or been happy as a man ?

Nay, Lady, said History,—in the tone of one that imparteth new truths unto a docible infancy,—nay : thou shouldest the rather question me on this wise : Hath any such ever escaped the most grievous punishments, in mind, body or estate ? For though thine own experience, at the present, saith but little in this behalf, he doth ever counsel best that preferreth the commonweale before any particular ; and what hast thou read concerning the wars and tyrannies of kingdoms and states (which have ever been the delight of rulers most unfitted to rule), that beginneth not in cheated ignorance and declineth not into heathenism, revolutions, slaveries, miseries and national obliterations ? Now seeing thou art a sovereign princess, and at present, in regard of thy sex, tender age and good intents, beloved withal, it behoveth thee to note especially how it hath fared with pryncedoms wherein, by hard exactions and cunning forecastings, the prince hath been counselled to bring the many into a state of slavish dependence upon the few. And first, for authority and ancientness, and for that thou hast the Bible for a symbol of thy sovereign rule, thou shalt do well to note the counsel that Joseph gave unto Pharaoh ; which was good counsel in so far as proving himself to have been divinely gifted with foreknowledge of events, but it was turned to ill consequences, as touching civil policy : for with a cruel durity of exaction and an overdoing cunning, the King of Egypt did take undue advantage of the knowledge wherewith the young Israelite had forearmed him ; insomuch that when in their hapless need his subjects cried unto him for bread, he dispossessed and disseized them of all their goods and chattels, as the price thereof ; yea and afterwards did cozen them out of their lands and livelihoods, by bonds of forfeiture for ever. The issue and instructive moral whereof is this :—That albeit the royal Pharaohs, and their successors the Ptolemies, have now for unknown ages been wholly extinct, the iniquity still survives ; yea it is still young, vigorous and fruitful. The lands of Egypt have ever since remained forfeited ; they have remained parcelled

and farmed out to the most rapacious and cruel of tyrants ; and for their sole behoof and benefit have been, and are, tilled by the most wronged, pitiful, and treacherous of slaves, even unto this day.

Said the Queen's Highness : Without question, the monarchy of Egypt hath long since fallen ; and the oppressions and miseries do still continue ; but in these mine own dominions I have much comfort in knowing that there hath been taken no such bonds of forfeiture to seize upon the present and forestall the future products of industry ; nor the like fraudulent exactions to foreingage the fruits of the seasons, and to starve or to make heathens of the pitiful commons.

Quoth HISTORY : There is an innocency and a tone of goodness in thy speech, poor child, that well pleadeth in thy favour ; and it is meet thou shouldest know, in some part, unto what ill issues and dangerous sequels thine error,—as in sooth thou dost greatly err in this matter,—if too far relied on, might betray thee ; for know that the poor commons can be reclaimed and ruled for thy safety and the general benefit only by a strict obedience to the holy word of the Most High, the dictates of historical wisdom, and after the truest ways of righteousness ;—yea, and humanely also : and that by foreign intermedlings, war-purveyances, and the tallages, poundages, imposts, customs and taxes to defray the costs thereof, howsoever levied, or under whatsoever disguisements the same shall have a seeming commendation, be thou assured, as in truth it much importeth all princes to know, that oppressions, divisions of classes, discontents and savageries at home, with contempt abroad, will ever be engendered thereby ; the peril and ill effects whereof may be, for a time, by cunning misreportings concealed, but they will yet have their day and occasion, as hath every pent up wrong, for a retributory breaking forth.

Is there then, inquired the Queen's Grace, an evil inherent in the estate monarchical ?

No more, Lady, said HISTORY, than such as the estate monarchical createth for itself, by its own too great desire of slavish worship, and its too great proneness toward wars and outlandish interferences. By such means the foundations of peace and order are uprooted, and the degrees intervenient, at home, having their devotedness attracted to court shows and vain disposures ; the quality are drawn into jealousies and mislikings of each other, every one esteeming himself less in trust than in merit ; and all more or less grow neglectful of their proper duties, as the exemplars, instructors, and contenters of the commonweale ; which ever declineth and suffereth iniquation, with class-divisions and malice to authorities, in proportion as revenues shall be exacted and wastefully expended, and as factitious honours shall be coveted and unduly awarded.

But in truth, said the Queen, even such as these must be sore evils, and dangerous ; and such as I would fain learn to ward off, an' ye could advise me.

Quoth HISTORY : Than can I do, and with as much readiness as may be ; sith thou hast but to take earnest thought for the whole commonweale. As touching the estate monarchical, it is of all others safest and surest,—provided only that its foundation and main care be the instruction and contentment of the many ; and that it honour and put its trust in the few only so far as they shall be found of good example ; disclaiming all undue advantages, and betaking themselves, each in his locality, to the furtherance of those great purposes of instruction and contentment for which these glorious islands and their dependencies are provided with all things needful, even to profusion. And finally, as touching these human memorials, which here lie open before thee, they do but confirm the truth of my present advisements, and record the awful judgments of Him whose eternal laws and righteous decrees, no earthly principalities, estates nor powers can ever contravene with impunity. For to pass from the royal fraud of Egypt, to the conquering and colonizing Assyrians ; or to the trafficking and skilful Phœnicians ; or to the sage Persians ; or to Grecia, Carthage or Rome ; and thence downwards through Venice, and all sequent powers : whether for fierce conquest celebrated, or by gainful traffic enriched, or by colonization extended, or by painting, poetry or sculpture refined, or by specious arts intrigant made vain and over confident,—being they saw not that GOD had Made man a docible creature, created for and ever capable of amelioration in his mental and bodily condition ; and stood not upon the sound and wholesome affections of an instructed, refined and contented many,—these once mighty powers have every one fallen. Some still exist, even in their fallen state ; but are dying daily. Of others, the life-lorn and withering memorials have their appropriate enshroudments within these pale and shrivelled parchment book-covers. Others, founded upon rocky sea marges and trafficking promontories, acquired sumless wealth, but have for ages been swallowed up, and will remain for ever merged in the unknown account of submarine acquirement. Others have become the dominion of savages, or unpathed wastes of sand ; whilst of others, owls, dragons, and doleful creatures inhabit the once delightsoonest places, to affright the travellers and curious explorators of later times, from their toilsome and bootless researches.

When the Queen's Grace had for a season mused on HISTORY'S account of the issues of princely pride and lordly encroachment, and on the vanity and ill tendencies of all schemes of gainful traffic that are regardless of the common welfare, and had in some degree overcome the sadness whereto the same had induced a disposure,—her Grace did once again refer unto HISTORY to be resolved on one

other point concerning which no question had heretofore been submitted.

Well and truly, I doubt not, said the Queen's Highness, hast thou answered all that hath been required of thee; but of the principedoms, states and times concerning which thou hast heretofore spoken, the ignorance was exceeding great and grievous: but in the time present, knowledge, as well in matters of state and governance, as in all things else, hath ripened and made advances to a degree whereof the ancient philosophy weet not.

Quoth HISTORY: It is plain that thou art still, in some sort, albeit a sovereign princess, but a poor subject unto the overtopping folly and dull improficiency of thine own reign; and I would fain thou be not the victim thereof: for know that, howsoever great the knowledge of the time, unless the goodness that is co-existent, or shall corrive therewith, be still greater, the vaunt of knowledge, being a thing in higher estimation for strangeness than for worthiness, is but as the over-eagerness of that idolatry which giveth a name unto its images ere the metal be molten; or it shall prove at best but a discontenting and dissevering cunning, undoing all and more than it hath ever done.

But, said the Queen's Grace, after some further consideration,—I pray you tell me, then, how a prince shall come to know whether the goodness of his time and government be greater or lesser than the knowledge?

HISTORY answered quickly: At length thou hast stricken a chord whose note shall be of healthsome, or of scathful import, even as thou shalt thyself regard it: and, for mine own part, I cannot now choose but be transmewed before thee into a form youthier, and of a more seeming familiar companionship, at thy mere question; and yet be scant able fitly to resolve it. But hither cometh one, and a more worthy, who shall best answer for me; and thou wilt do well to treasure up and consecrate that answer, as the most valued rule and record of thy kingdom.

Of all this discourse between HISTORY and the Queen's Grace, I noted every word; and especially what was said touching the estimation of knowledge *in loco bonitatis*; and was now wrought up into an extreme curiousness, both in regard of the answer that should be given unto the Queen's Grace's question, and of HISTORY's sudden change, before the Queen's Majesty, into the same youthy, fair, familiar, and engaging visitant, she had aforetime appeared unto me. But whilst I sat bended forward, marvelling at these things, there passed me, with a step and motion inaudible, one of an heavenly carriage; whose salutation, when that I did essay to commend myself in a beseeming return, was of so excellent a graciousness that I knew it could be none other but RELIGION; and I spake not a word: being I was certified that RELIGION herself was

minded to go and resolve the Queen's Grace's question. Wherefore, when the Queen, who was by this time become delectated and somewhat emboldened with HISTORY's new attractions and engaging companionship, saw another and of a more serene presence approach, and with a sisterly lovingness enfold History's arm in her own, her Highness was perplexed and disheartened withal; which being perceived,—

RELIGION spake, with an engaging sweetness, and said: Fear not, royal Lady, and well beloved; fear not: for wherefore shouldest thou fear, prince as thou art, and therefore most liable to error,—that hast heard and believed, yea and in part resolved, in thy princely rule and governance, to assert the docibility of man, for good or for evil; accordingly as good or evil influences shall be brought to bear upon his mind and his bodily condition; to act upon that article of thy faith, and to vindicate the solemn truths wherewith this my younger sister, and most dear, hath made thee acquainted?

Now when the Queen's Grace heard the addulced voice of RELIGION, and found that her counsel was likely to confirm, in every particular, the matters whereof HISTORY spake aforetime, her Grace was much comforted; and presently demanded who the new comer should be? which being in answer duly declared, her Highness did express an extreme gladness to be better known unto RELIGION, and more than all else desired her constant friendship.

My constant friendship shalt thou right freely have, said RELIGION; it being for that I am mainly come. And now, as touching the especial matter of this mine unlooked for embodied visit: My good sister here, but for her much deference, might truly have answered thy question; to wit,—How shall a prince attain to know whether the goodness of his rule and governance be greater or lesser than the knowledge?

An thou canst resolve me that, said the Queen, with a pleased readiness, thou shalt reign over all my dominions; for though I be called their Queen, I will be but thy vicegerent and daily orator: thou shalt reign over me; and be my commendator unto the merciful Majesty of Heaven.

Quoth RELIGION: Since it plainly appeareth that thy right-heartedness can brook no further delays nor interposures, mine answer is even this: That the goodness is too little for the knowledge, and is hindered thereby, whensoever the few shall be more cared for than the many.

Said the Queen's Highness: For thine answer HISTORY had well nigh prepared me.

Quoth RELIGION: My good sister is a meet preceptress. O that princes were as apt to learn! Howbeit, it is plain that thou hast, even now, gone far enough in wise readings and good counsels

to hearken, without fear or surprize, unto the determinations of the wisest ; which are these : That the rule and economy of this life, under whatsoever form of government men may choose to submit themselves, and all the practical duties of Christianity, finally resolve themselves into an actual and loving humanity ; for without such, in very truth and deed, there must still remain dull barbarisms and active seducements, whereby shall ever come discontents, mislikings, infidelities. and revolutions. Thou knowest what the last of the holy Evangelists lastly saith, concerning the blessed Redeemer's final injunctions ; how that he thrice inquired of Simon Peter, the son of Jonas, if he loved him ? being thrice answered that he did,—then, said the Lord of everlasting life, Feed my flock :—that is, with the bread, as well of a sufficing instruction and contentment for this life, as of the life eternal. And with this knowledge, as being both the end of history and the beginning of religion, myself and sister have taken these our embodiments aspectable to make thee more especially acquainted. Wherefore be thou royal in shewing mercy, but of little note in deeds of vengeance ; ever apt to instruct, but slow to punish : for punishment, in all its forms and pretended modifications, is the lowest, meanest, and least profitable of all the cares and duties of government : and because crimes and offences, whenever wisely and humanely considered, will be found to be not so much the faults of the wretched ignorant, who actually commit them, as they are alarums and necessary warnings of their own loose example and negligency, rung in the dulled ears of the proud instructed, to summon them to their duties.—And as concerning knowledge, whereof something hath already been advanced ; take thou this for thy monishment and further direction : That whatsoever knowledge hath in it no part nor concern for the general benefit or contentment, it is but an art political, self-seeking and ostentatious ; great in prospect, but little in possession. Furthermore, as thou wouldest that mine influence should ever prevail over and direct thy future procedures, beware how thou dost enact outward forms or shows devotional,—all which being dead and of none effect without commensurate good works to make manifest their sincerity ; for He whom ye profess to serve thereby, the Searcher of hearts, knoweth that of all modes of worship and religious service mere praying and profession-making are cheapest ; being they cost nothing, and the acting thereof is a thing extream facile. Wherefore, thou being a prince and ruler, as thou tenderest mine influence, and lookest for the blessing of Him whose eyes behold all the children of men, and whose winged intelligencers ever traverse the ambient air ; ere thou kneelest in prayer, see that thy religion be in thine heart, and that ye understand aright thy princely charge and obligation, to make continually better the condition of thy people ; for thy means are boundless, as are thine

opportunities innumerable ; which being used, are ever the faithfullest factors unto royal and all other good intenders : and finally, take heed that thou hast for thy servants such only as be of the true knowledge, and faithful in thy chief service ; which is to promote the production and procurement of all things needful for thy people, and to cause all classes to fear and honour their Maker, and to love one another,—lest that, unhappily for thee, thine own devoutest supplications be met before the throne of heavenly grace, and rendered of none effect, by the prophane ravings of neglected ignorance, or by the moanings of hunger, or the cry of unregarded misery, from any part of these thine abundantly provided dominions.

When RELIGION had finished these her grave, but most loving admonishments unto the Queen's Grace, there was a long silence ; at the end whereof her Highness said, What shall I do, and whither seek for servants of the true faith and saving knowledge ?

Unto which RELIGION made answer and said,—Believe : for the most estimable facts, maxims, and achievements of government are more indebted to Belief, than Belief ever was or will be to them. Believe : and declare thine own faith and will publicly and plainly : for no faithful prince did ever yet fail for want of faithful servants. From thy counsels exclude the excluders. Care thou thyself for the many, as the RULER of all hath cared for thee ; and hath abundantly provided thee with power and all things necessary for his service. So shalt thou become the shining light of thine age, to dispel barbarities and to shew how princes can teach and people learn.

Then said the Queen's Grace, arising from her chair to meet RELIGION, all this I steadfastly believe ; and will do thy bidding.

Hereat RELIGION gave unto her Highness the Queen's Grace the *osculum pacis*, or kiss of peace ; and there seemingly began a right loving fellowship between them all three : but of their further speeches and proceedings I saw nothing ; for the scene of the royal library was on a sudden removed from before me.

VISION XII.

A STREET IN LONDON.

COURT NEWS AND PUBLIC RUMOURS.—THE QUEEN GOES IN STATE TO OPEN PARLIAMENT.

AFTER the long vision of the Queen's conference with HISTORY and RELIGION was ended, I sank into a contented voidness, of what duration I know not ; but I began to dream again, with HISTORY at my side, and methought that together we stood on a balustraded

terrace, and did thence overlook an open street, formed of fair dwelling houses, and of shops filled with a store of things most curious to behold. Of people there was an exceeding multitude, of conditions, habits, moods and notions diverse. The better habited commingled with much eagerness, being apparently impelled by a press of news and a brisk straving of rumours, touching the Queen's Majesty, wherewith every one seemed filled to overflowing, and sought but an ear to receive his report. Some said there had been gained by the Fubbses a notable victory at court, where the Bubbbses had best not shew their faces again: whilst others of like heady affections, and seeming fitter to disorder than to compose affairs, did protest clean to the contrariwise; to wit, that a certain bedchamber woman of the Bubbbses party had counterplotted in such shrewd sort that the Queen's Grace would henceforward in nowise suffer a Fubbs to be of her Highness' counsel or bedchamber. But noting over the heads of the close impacted multitude a press of mounted troopers, led on by divers trumpeters, with their antique blazonries and martial brayings, I was certified that the Queen's Majesty was hitherwards coming in her Grace's princely state, to open the parliament. Whereat I was right glad; but remembering what had been said, and had befallen, between the Queen's Highness and HISTORY and RELIGION, in a former vision, I was extream curious to see in what manner and terms her Grace would accost men who cared nothing for HISTORY, and as little as possible for her good sister; and who must needs therefore be misbechosen and ill suited for every good purpose of their assembling.

When I had for a season thus pondered the matter, HISTORY said, Fear not for aught concerning the Queen's speech; because, as thou knowest, her Highness hath taken counsel of late both of my good sister and myself; and once again, even now, during thine interlapse. Wherefore, from the speech thou shalt in solemn state hear presently delivered, thou mayest wot well, not only of the Queen's tutelage, but likewise of her clear inspection over her whole charge and able over-ruling of the hearts of men.

Scantly had HISTORY said these words, ere the Queen's Grace in her coach majestical came slowly into view; whereof the sight was right gladsome to behold. A forest of upraised hands, and the waving of hats and streamers, gave note of an under-current of hope in the close impacted multitude; as likewise of some desired event in proximate expectation. Thus was greeted and did come onward her Highness in her royal state and proper queenly person; the surpassing beautifulness whereof no description of mine could fitly set forth. Thrice should I doubtless have bowed myself down, and somewhat in prayerwise ejaculated that one so fair, and

of so great power, should have a befitting endowment of goodness, but certain about me, with their repeated sore wailings and cries, Alack ! Alack ! that he should be again possessed ! and with their divers lets and interposures did bear me up and constrain mine actions ; insomuch that ere I could assoil mine own right and duty of an homaged approval, the glorions illusion had passed, and HISTORY had closed the scene.

VISION XIII.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

IN THE COMPANY ASSEMBLED THERE APPEARS A GENERAL EXPECTATION OF SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY COURSE OF SUCH OCCASIONS.—THE COMMONS AND STRANGERS INDULGE IN SOME JOULARITIES.—THE QUEEN ENTERS, AND TAKES HER STATE UPON THE THRONE.—THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.—ITS INSTANTANEOUS EFFECT WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE WALLS OF PARLIAMENT.—HER MAJESTY RETIRES.

ERE I had well overcome the shock transitionary, methought I was standing by a screen over which I looked into the same lordly chamber that was seen in a former vision, with the canopied and princely throne at the further end thereof ; but that every part was now filled to overflowing, with dignitaries, as well spiritual as temporal, and with ladies as of lords : being that in the galleries, on all sides, above and below, were now enranged in rows, and seated, gentlewomen of quality and highest worship, circumvested in their mantuas of state, and kyrtles of the richest stuffs. Their head-bands, and the circlets and kerchers wherewith their tires were circumcluded and builded up, shone with costly gems ; and being beplumed in a like royal sort, the enwreathed becks and pranced motions thereof, as by conversation, recognizances, and greetings must needs be caused, did make a sight exceeding curious and pretty to behold.

But in every countenance, whithersoever I turned, was now depicted an expectation of somewhat the true nature whereof, none even of the highest worship did seem able or minded to forevouch. Howbeit, in the press of commons that stood nearest about the seat regal, as of others who filled the lower parts of the chamber, near the spot where HISTORY had placed me, they spake with loudness their several presagements (as I did overhear,

despight the reverberate cannons, the church bells which rang merrily, and the shoutings and pleased turbulencies outside,) with masking quips and right pleasant settings forth, that the Bubbsses and the Fubbsses, whose quarrels and mislikings should by this time have lasted for ages, might at length shut up their Janus his temple, shake hands for good fellowship, and be at accord: seeing that the Queen's Grace had grown too wise, faithful and humane in the duties of her princely charge to have affiance in the buskinned and mumming contestations of her Highness' state showmen any longer.

Next began a stir amongst certain in attendance about the passage to the throne; and all eyes being thitherwards turned, it did appear there also, as elsewhere, by comprobation of parties and things diverse, that portentions of some unwonted procedure had entered as well the minds of court retainers as of others indifferent.

Anon, with due pomp and state, was ushered in her Highness the Queen's Majesty, at whose royal presence and over-matching beauty I should incontinently have been mazed with very admiration, but for that the graciousness thereof did give a like sudden impulse of pleasedness unto all beholders; at whose uprising, with the rustlings of silken and lustring robes, the shinings of rubies and pretious jewels, as well in cross-wise delicately disposed, as in neck ornaments, impearled stomachers, armlets, cinctures and beplumed frontlets,—I was diverted from a too great indulgence of mine own admiration of the Queen's Grace, (herself a jewel set in white) and was prepared to hear and note well her Highness' most gracious speech; which was, with a true princely dignity, yea and with a sweetness angelical, delivered to the tenor and effect as here followeth,—that is to say:—

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It hath seemed good, after due consideration for the general welfare, that you should be convened as the custom hath long been, at the present season; wherefore, being hither assembled, I most heartily greet you well; and in further compliance with the usage of my royal predecessors of pious memory, unto your faithful counsels I shall in brief commend the estate of my dominions, at home and abroad.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

Unto you pertains the granting of such aids and supplies as the true exigencies of the public service shall require, and I heartily commend that, laying aside all vain displays of speech and oppugnancy, you have speedy agreement therein; for in the due exercise of my royal will and pleasure, and of my just prerogative, I shall

take counsel, and with as much speed as may be, dissolve this parliament here present assembled, and issue my royal warrant for the choice and calling together of another.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Since a mutual affiance, between prince and people, does ever profit and well become both, in the sight of the LORD and MASTER of all, and must needs be well established for the welfare and right government of his people, it is meet that you should, even now, be in part advertised of the grounds whereon a departure from long usage has been determined in my royal counsels, and of the intent thereof; to the end that you may duly consider the same, and be prepared for the duties which will be required of all those who expect to meet me in another parliament.

Bodies politic being constituted of bodies natural; revolutions being the constant themes of history; and the proudest and mightiest empires having one by one become, in respect of their former greatness and glory, but as dust and ashes, while the goodness of GOD endureth yet daily, and the nature, the necessities, and the capacities of Man to be made better by better government and better influences, are ever the same; it is time for governments to consider wherein their duties do truly consist, in order that they may conform thereto, and be no longer the promoters of immoralities and revolutions, nor the hinderers of their people's welfare and contentment.

For in whatever the errors of former times may have consisted; or whatever may have bechanced to former kingdoms and governments, the progress of knowledge in the productive arts, as in all things else, has hitherto been so unenlightened by example, and so unseconded by any adequate provisions or considerations for the common benefit, that the wants of my people, so far from being relieved, are in great part augmented thereby: wherefore the religious, moral and social condition of these mine own dominions calls loudly for a policy of special adaption thereto, and will brook no further delay.

And first, seeing that fierce disputes and bitter mislikings still exist amongst you concerning religion; I right heartily commend unto all bishops, priests, and deacons, as likewise unto Christian teachers of every denomination, that they forthwith dedicate themselves to the conversion of their several flocks and congregations to the faith and practice of the Gospel precepts of brotherly love; to the end that Christianity may be rightly understood in respect of its ever-growing urgencies, and its capabilities of expansion and inclusion; as likewise in all its means and ends of unbounded and everlasting benefit to the body and soul of man; and that from these realms and their foreign dependencies may be rooted out the

sin, sore scandal, and worldly peril, of that self-seeking and wilful heathenism, which after about two thousand years of little better than a merely preached and doctrinal Christianity, still practically exists: and whoso in this service shall enter with most zeal, and approve themselves the greatest converters, shall ever stand foremost in my princely favour and affection.

Secondly, as concerning moral improvement, stability of degrees and orders, and the general contentment: It is plainly an ordinance of the ETERNAL, that the great amongst men can be such only by good example; and that when they cease to be great by example, their greatness hath no longer a solid foundation, but soon passeth away. It can be at best, but a rotten ripeness, which requires not a Periander's pruning-knife, but is mercifully ordained to fall of itself, and to be overgrown by virtue of that subsoil which is the appointed replenishing source of social health,—and all attempts to destroy or deteriorate which, are treason, madness, and hopeless barbarity: and since there can be no true greatness, nor concord, nor permanent security for good order, without such good example above as shall dispense instruction and induce contentment below, they must needs be but ill architects political that think to build up towering structures to their own glory, whilst they look not to the foundations, to see that they be of a proportionate and sufficing depth and broadness to sustain them.

Thirdly, as touching the onward progress of knowledge, and the new duties of state thereby enjoined; whereto, as legislators, it behoves none to be indifferent: seeing that if the general condition of my people be not made gradually better thereby, it shall doubtless become, as indeed it hath become, worse: wherefore I commend that you proceed to consider how far the knowledge of the time is made subservient to the time's contentment,—which is the true test and end thereof; and by none other standard can the verity and value of knowledge be approved; nor can aught else invest it with faith and life, means and power, and prescribe for it rightful rules of action.

Fourthly, in respect of territory; and the bond of unity as a governing power: being that the wider the empire, the better fed, better instructed, more numerous, healthful and mighty must be the home population; and the more solidness of home contentment shall my dominions require for the due maintenance of their integrity at home and abroad. It shall be well, therefore, if so much homage be paid to common sense, that you all and severally begin to consider if any kingdom so small as this can prosper by a policy of exclusions; or did ever before acquire by conquest, by colonization, or otherwise, such far distant and unbounded dependencies as this my kingdom hath; and if it be possible, without unity, strength and contentment at home, and such other means as true

wisdom and the purest righteousness doth warrant and require, to govern the same without the constant peril of an overbalancing dismemberment and an hurtful falling asunder? For howsoever authorities may cavil, the common people, far or near, do ever measure the bond of their obedience by the good that is done unto them.

Wherefore, fifthly, I charge and command you, one and all, on your allegiance; seeing that the throne of these mine insular dominions, with its boundless and overbalancing ultramarine dependencies, can be established only on a solid, fixed, and immovable righteousness,—even as a rock, with pure fountains of a contenting wisdom flowing therefrom to the uttermost parts of the earth,—that every one of you, in your respective offices, as well ecclesiastical as civil, according to your several degrees, powers and occupations, and in the several localities in and over which you exercise authority and influence, that you become truly and practically instructors, exemplars, and contenters: for every dignity hath its duties; and the duties being neglected, the dignity is no longer a light and an ornament, but an offence and a cankering sore. Universal good is made up of the several items of the local; and in the general well being, alone, as thus understood and thus provided for, consists true godly governance, and the sum and lasting sovereignty of all earthly knowledge and heavenward preparation.

At the end of this speech, methought the dignity of the Queen's countenance did equal the loveliness thereof; and that all the becks and obeisances of the assembly, with the smiles, salutations and pleased whisperings were first changed to an astounded fear, thence to admiration, and presently unto a true loving regard: wherewith every one being filled to overflowing, the Queen's Grace retired, in some sort ungreeted of those whom her Highness gracious speech had most overcome. Howbeit the church bells rang, the trumpets' martial sounds, mingling with vocal acclamations, again filled the air, as the Queen's Majesty returned in her Grace's royal state: and eftsoons was her Highness' speech in the mouths of pleased millions; yea, and in their hearts likewise. Whereof divers acts and sequent procedures, as in two other visions, shewed unto me, and here presently set down, will right pleasantly testify.

VISION XIV.

THE NEW ERA.

THE EFFECTS OF THE QUEEN'S SPEECH UPON THE PEOPLE IN GENERAL, THROUGHOUT THE BRITISH ISLES.—THE QUEEN INSTITUTES A NEW ORDER OF KNIGHTHOOD.—HISTORY REPRESENTS THE DOLTISHNESS OF THOSE WHO IMAGINE THAT KNOWLEDGE IS VALUELESS, AS BEING NO GREATER THAN THAT OF THOSE WHO EXPECT BENEFITS FROM ITS EXTENSION, WITHOUT ITS BEING MADE DIRECTLY SUBSERVIENT TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF RELIGION AND THE COMMON WELFARE.—CERTAIN CHANGES AND WONDERS OF SUCCEEDING TIMES ARE PRESENTED TO THE DREAMER.—RELIGION AND JUSTICE MEET AND EMBRACE.—THE DREAMER IS TRANSPORTED THROUGH THE AIR TO THE SCENE OF HIS LAST PHANTASM.

BEING once more rested and composed, methought I was again in mine own chair seated, with HISTORY near at my side; and from divers her HISTORYSHIP'S further impartments, I did presently learn as followeth:—

That the Queen's Excellent Majesty, waxing more zealous as a true and faithful servant of the Most HIGH, and being daily certified of more governable and docible qualities in the human mind, whereto no appeals had heretofore been shapen and put forth of those who had authority, leisure and means for works of the like true nobility, instituted a new order of knighthood; to wit, the order of Contentment: wherewith to invest whomsoever should approve themselves, under the greatest disadvantages, converters, instructors and contenters of the greatest numbers of her Grace's loving subjects; to the end that the nation's superabundant means should be justly estimated, rightly used, or freely exchanged, for whatsoever was most needful for the nation's contentment.

That both houses of parliament, and the several members thereof, seeing what manner of Prince it was they should now be presided over withal, did incontinently begin to vie with each other in a right loving compliancy with the Queen's Grace's declared will and pleasure, as the same hath been by her Majesty, in her own most gracious speech, already in brief set forth; and in less than a month from the day of their assembling, the old parliament should be dissolved, and the several members thereof, being well pleased to escape from so inglorious a publickness, should each in his locality or place of influence, right heartily strive to win the Queen's Grace's priceless favour and affection.

That throughout the whole extent of England, and of Scotland, there should be grown a love for the Queen's Majesty of equal fervency and enduring truth; and that the same loving loyalty should extend into, and soon dispread itself over the whole kingdom of Ireland also; and in such zealous and impulsive wise, that there should seem but one heart, one mighty heart; whose ardent action and resistless force should bear down and disperse to the winds all evil thinking, and prevail even to the uttermost shores of her Grace's dominions.

That councils should no longer be holden for repression of pretended seditious disturbances, nor troopers employed to stop the cries of hunger with the sword; nor in these far-off times should lords and justices any more dare to assemble in the vicinages whence they drew all their importance, to devise charges of riot or evil intent against their neglected and hunger-galled neighbours; and pray for troopers to be sent hither and thither, to assist in the slaying, seizure, or dispersion of the same; being that according to the Queen's Grace's now wiser and more honourable counsels, and her Majesty's Highness' own more clear and true insight into the economy of human life and society, and into the primal causes of content and discontent, as they shall be perceived and found to operate in and over the same, such charges, addresses, and requirements, if in these far-off days they should be laid at the foot of the throne, would bring down upon all that should present, vote for, sign or approve them, the Queen's Grace's severest displeasure; they being themselves, having all the influence for good or for evil, the ill exemplars and mis-users of that influence, unto whom of right the evils that most afflict the land, should be, and must needs be, ever imputed.

That such counsels should now therefore be no longer acceptable to the royal ear, nor be deemed reasonable; but councils for purposes clean to the contrary. For of so great fervency should be the love borne towards the Queen's excellency, that in a few weeks there should begin to be devised and considered, in all parts of the land, plans of tents, lines of march, and provisions needful, for going in families, townships, districts, yea in whole shires, to behold the gracious and beauteous Majesty of Britain's Queen, in London, or at Windsor; to render unto her Grace due thanks, and to repay in benedictions their just debt of a right loving and devoted loyalty. In vain should certain remonstrate against so great multitudes going such a distance: for it should be answered, the summer was at hand; that the young and laborious were content to be the bearers of the burthens and the constructors and guardians of the tents and night encampments; and that the aged were right well disposed to limp after the rest, as far as they should be able; and that if they must needs fail by the way side, they

had lived to see the dawn and earnest of better times, and would be well content to bless the Queen and die.

That when the Queen's Grace should hear of these things, and have steadfast assurance therefrom, that Man can be ruled well and for any good purpose through his humanities and better sympathies only, her Highness should be oft-times moved, even unto tears; and should take counsel, as well of such as should be near at hand for her Grace's aidance in ordinary, as of others in trust and service in remote parts of the three kingdoms; and it being found that of a verity the desire to behold and bless the Queen was in all parts of a like fervency, and would take no denial, a council general should be convened for consideration of the whole matter, the Queen's most excellent Majesty presiding; and after grave advisement it should be resolved and proclaimed,—

That the Queen's Grace was right well pleased to go forth and meet her faithful people in certain parts of her dominions, to be appointed by authority; whither the hills, valleys, and other vantages of ground should best afford means of aspection and interparlance between her Highness and the right loving multitudes to be assembled:—

Here methought I interrupted HISTORY; and said, O that I had lived to see one of these days! whereto methought HISTORY answered, That may not be. Howbeit for thy faith and hope thou dost well deserve to be foreadvised of things which cannot as yet, amongst the duller sort, be imagined to be possible. And herein is a notable proof of Man's need of a wiser and more religious governance, and of a more enlarged and generous tutoring; to nourish his faith and to qualify and prepare him for the right use and enjoyment of ever-coming discoveries,—seeing that the dullest and blindest have been ever foremost in their day to prescribe limits to God's goodness; and to fancy that they know also the utmost bounds, and can set limits to Man's capacity for instruction and contentment. But though thou canst not journey so far onward in the course of time, and the progress of affairs and changes, as to see one of these days, I will fetch one of them unto thee; and in a fleeting vision will set its glory before thy face. Yea, thou shalt behold the assembled multitude of four shires; to wit, the shires of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, and Hants, as it shall be encamped for the Queen's greeting, upon the hills beginning at the westernmost brow of Wimblingdune Common, over against Kyngeston upon Thames, in the shire of Surrey; and thence extended eastwards, even unto a certain place called Shooter's Hill, in the shire of Kent.

At this I grew extreme glad, and impatient withal; which HISTORY perceiving, she bade me keep silent and to be not afraid; for that presently I should have enough ado with seeing and hearing

only. Then again I listed ; and HISTORY spake and said : I warrant thou dost marvel how a multitude of four shires should be within due space and time assembled for such a purpose. But herein thou mayest discern another evidence of man's need, capability and right, to be made ever more and more instructed, refined, and contented : for know that in the days whereof thou shalt presently have a passing view, there shall be found means of assembling, from all parts, tens of thousands at any given point ; yea, and if need be, with the swiftness of the crow's flight.

HISTORY, again enjoining me to be not afraid, with a seeming wafture of her hand, threw open the side of my library, and a scene of appalling wonder did pass swiftly before mine eyes. It came apparently through a rock, drawn by a flying and red-glaring furnace ; passing me with a resistless fury : and when I had somewhat overcome the terror of the shock, and of the hissing hot fumes and pent-up vapours therewith concurrent, I remembered there had passed a long stream of human faces, as of persons at their ease sitting in an uncounted line of stately carriages ; but with so dizzying a swiftness, and so loud a whirling of iron wheels that nothing could I distinguish or remember in particular, save only WINCHESTER upon one of the banners.

When HISTORY had shut up this marvellous scene, and I had somewhat recovered from the shock thereof, she continued her discourse ; saying, Judge ye, from this, how great numbers may be assembled in twenty-four hours' time by many like lines of approach converging towards one point !—for on this wise shall the four shires send up their tens of thousands of old and young. And being thus assembled, by their ministers of religion, their chiefs, their leaders, elders, and waving banners, shall the townships, cities, districts and shires be enanged. At the time just before the Queen's Grace's passage each several division shall be deflexed in supplication to the KING of Kings, that he would vouchsafe to the faithful ruler of his people health and long life ; to be the practical expounder of his righteous and eternal laws, and the minister of his gracious purposes. And that, as the Queen's Highness and her attendants should thus pass along, the hosts should in succession arise, and sing an hymn of concord.

When HISTORY had made an end of saying these things, methought she was suddenly changed into a book : and in that form she did incontinently vanish out of my sight.

Then did come in RELIGION ; and ere I had time to make my devout salutations, JUSTICE also on a sudden entered, and did right lovingly embrace RELIGION ; proclaiming with a loud voice,—It is done ! The decree, *Fiat Justitia !* hath gone forth. Whereat methought an influx of light, and the air of a more open and perfect day brake in upon me ; whilst joyous trumpeting resounded

amidst the sun-beams and brightening clouds ; and that I was presently taken up, by RELIGION and JUSTICE, and between them was seated upon an umberous courser of the air, whereon I was moved forwards in a marvellous swift sort ; but with such an easiness withal, that had I not looked down upon tall steeples, checquered vales, and busky uplands, running in a contrary current beneath me ; and had I not met the buxom fannings of the mid air, as likewise many birds on the wing, I had not known that by some power invisible I was borne swiftly onwards. Howbeit, ere one could well count three score, there came about me, reverberated from the concavity of the heavens, a swelling sound as of a world on a sudden disabused of its worst errors, and assembled for the purpose of rejoicing ; and methought I was set gently down upon a flowery eminence not far from the western brow of an hill, whereinto there led up a valley, on both sides whereof, and continued beyond the reach of sight, appeared hundreds of thousands of pleased men, women and children. Yea the multitude thereof was as the piled up waves of a sea ; whose rippings were hands uplifted with joy, and whose voice should make glad the heart of mankind with its circumbounding echoes to all nations !

VISION XV.

THE QUEEN'S PASSAGE THROUGH THE MULTITUDE.

THE QUEEN PASSES THROUGH THE CONGREGATION OF FOUR COUNTIES.—

BY THE HYMN THAT IS SUNG THE DREAMER APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOOTHED INTO A REFRESHING SLEEP.—AT LENGTH, THE DAY BEING FAR ADVANCED, HE HEARS SOME FAMILIAR VOICES, AND AWAKES.

As all agaze and silent with very wonder and delight I beheld these things, methought that RELIGION and JUSTICE saluted me, and straightway entered into the multitude ; and there came, heralded by one bearing the royal standard of the British Isles, the Queen's Grace in her lovesomest majesty, mounted on a beautiful and cream-coloured palfrey, led by a state groom on either side, and attended by her princely consort and a troop of honourable fair maidens ; all surrounded by a foot guard of most honourable knights of the Order of Contentment, from the four shires ; whereof four grand masters did bear the banners of the four counties ; two being on the Queen's Grace's left, and two on her Grace's right.

And ere the Queen's Majesty did thus ride, in her Grace's beautiful state, unto the lower end of the valley, to pass up the same, the hosts on either side, as had been ordered, deflexed themselves

in a devout supplication. Then as the glorious illusion onward passed, they arose, in succession; and the appointed hymn being prompted by a following band of royal musicians, the air did presently resound with attuned voices innumerable; singing, with an holy concord, as followeth:—

1.

God save our righteous Queen,
 Bless our most faithful Queen,
 God save the Queen.
 Send her victorious,
 In goodness glorious,
 Long to reign over us,
 God save the Queen.

2.

O LORD our GOD arise,
 Turn the Queen's enemies,
 And let none fall.
 Confound base politicks,
 Flatt'ers and factions' tricks,
 In thee our hopes we fix,
 God save us all.

3.

Thy choicest favours pour,
 Now and for evermore,
 On our fair Queen:
 Bless her dominions all,
 Home and colonial,
 Round the revolving ball:
 God save the Queen!

Methought that I did look long, and with a delighted musefulness, after the departing glory; yea, even after all had passed and gone beyond sight and hearing, it seemed unto me that the waning illusion did still cast back from the enchanted hills and valleys reverberate iterations of,—“Round the revolving ball,”—and solemn echoes of,—“God save the Queen,” to dally with the gently soothed senses.

For how great a space of time this tranced enjoyment and succeeding composure did continue, I know not; but in plenteous content of mind, and a rare easiness in respect of all bodily humours, I did at length overhear the voice of mine especial reverend and siugular good neighbour, the rector, say, Go to! *Conjuro te!*

Aroynt, thou naughty spirit! I adjure thee depart out of him! Hist, Roger, hist! Anon the good rector spake again; and said, Lo, the ill spirit hath departed out of him; and see, he calmly reposes! Next I did likewise begin to hear the voice of Roger, with the good rector's, in some contention engaged, touching mine arousalment. Then, at last, unclosing mine eyes, I found the sun had been risen some hours ago, and was now right cheerly shining in at the opened casement of my chamber window; where sat a robin, hidden amongst the yellowed vine-leaves, piping his faint responses unto his fellow red-breast, somewhere ensconced in mine orchard.

Finally, being now become wide awake, the good rector gave thanks for that I was delivered from the ill spirit which he imagined had possessed me, and shut up his Bible; whilst my poor knaves danced for joy, and the women gave thanks to see me once again delivered: but truly, for mine own part, I am certified that all hath been nothing else but A DREAM.

THE END.



