

tricity was known. it was only known as one of the most destructive powers of nature. It is only within comparatively a few years that men began to apply Electricity to any useful purpose. The utilization of Steam and of the Electric Telegraph have changed the whole aspect, not only of the commercial but also of the political world. Nor is the progress made in Morality and Religion during the same period much less marked than that in Science and Civilization.

At the time I was born there were no Missionary Societies, except at London and at Rome; no Bible or Tract Societies; and no Societies for educating the Poor, at home or abroad, except Sunday Schools just begun by Robert Raikes in 1781. Now there are Missionaries preaching the everlasting Gospel in every part, and almost in every language in the world. And wherever the Gospel goes, civilization follows. It is quite true that the large majority of mankind are still in a state of barbarism and heathenism. Nevertheless a mighty *beginning* has been made. In some places, formerly in utter barbarism, thousands and thousands have been converted to Christianity, and *everywhere* some progress has been made. And who can venture to predict or estimate the happy changes which the next period of seventy-five years will effect?

Although my education has been very limited, (confined entirely to the English language), yet, from my class studies in my younger days and constant reading since, I acquired such knowledge of the Physical Sciences as to enable me to understand and appreciate the progress of modern discoveries, and in a measure to keep pace with them.

My firm opinion is, that man is as yet acquainted with but a small part of the latent powers of Nature, all of which will hereafter be discovered as the exigencies of man require them, and be utilized by him for his own purposes, just as Steam and Electricity have been. The GREAT CREATOR having stored the earth, the sea and the atmosphere with such treasures as man requires for the performance of his mission in this world, and just as he requires them, GOD will raise up some one to discover and utilize them. It is hardly correct to term these things "discoveries;" they are truly "revelations."

P.S.—July, 1878. I am an old man, about eighty years of age. I have great reason to thank GOD that my bodily senses, except my hearing, are still unimpaired, and the faculties of my mind are quite vigorous. I can execute the business of my office with as clear an un-

derstanding as ever I could, and my judgment on things and events are sounder than ever before. If it were the good will of my Heavenly Father, I would not wish to outlive my bodily senses and mental intellect. A second childhood or dotage is a melancholy state to look at or think upon. I have been blessed with as kind and devoted children as a parent could wish to have; I know they would nurse me and provide for me in all or any circumstances; nevertheless, I would not like to become burdensome to them or outlive my usefulness. But let GOD's will be done,—not mine. There are now so many of my dear children gone to the "house of silence"—to the "sleep that knows no waking here," that I lose all relish for those things that used formerly to delight me. The heart is sad, and takes no pleasure in them now. Oh what a glorious thing is memory! When I was young, the Past was nothing to me, the Future everything: "Building castles in the air," which were never realized; neither indeed were it possible ever to finish; dreaming day-dreams, and seeing visions of future greatness and eminence which were never to be attained;—the mind meanwhile feeding itself on the gorgeous creations of its own wild fancy. But now that I am old, the Future of this world is nothing to me,—the Past everything: Memory bringing up out of its own treasure-house glowing pictures of scenes and incidents in which I bore a part, long, long ago, and the remembrance of men and women with whom I was once acquainted and held sweet converse, but whose bodies are all now at rest, in the "silent cities of the dead," and whose souls have returned to GOD who gave them; Who shall render to every one according to the deeds done in the body, whether good or bad; for there is no respect of persons with GOD. The JUDGE of all the universe will do right! He has gone to prepare everlasting habitations for all the good and true.

[This venerable and excellent man survived for eleven years longer, performing his duties as Stipendiary Magistrate of New Glasgow till his last illness of eight days, during which he was confined to his house, suffering little pain, but conscious, bright and cheerful to the last, when he died in peace, on Sept. 16th, 1884, "looking unto JESUS," at the advanced age of 92 years. "Mark the perfect and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace." Ps. 37 : 37.]

THE greatest glory of a free-born people is to transmit their glory to their children.—*Howard.*