

## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

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CIVILIZATION in its progress has ever followed the direction of light ; it arose far Eastward ; gradually it shone over Greece, then Rome ; it culminates over Western Europe ; and, even now, its morning light is upon America, while the land it first enlightened is sinking into darkness.

There seems to have been always an instinct in the minds of thoughtful men, that there was a great continent Westward ; a New World, ready to receive the overflow of the burden of humanity that pressed upon the Old. " Atlantis " long ago expressed a consciousness of such a want, and a belief that it would be supplied. Strange to say, this prophetic