

putation. The London "Spectator," commenting on the report at the time, expressed the opinion that long before fifty years had passed the new water-works would be found altogether inadequate for the population. It said there was no reason to believe that the rate of growth would decrease in the future. On the contrary it considered that an increase in the rate of growth was more probable, as past experience had shown that the rate of growth increased instead of diminished as the city grew greater.

In contemplating the probable future of this wonderful city the water supply is not the only thing that should be taken into account. Where are all these seventeen millions of people to get their food and how will they earn money to pay for it? If London were the only city in Great Britain the problem would not be so serious, but it is only one of a number of large and rapidly growing cities.

Yet the British Empire is so vast and its resources so great that even if Great Britain should eventually become one great city girt about by the sea, it would probably be practicable to supply all its millions with food produced within the Empire if they should have the money to pay for it. The great problem would be to find profitable employment for all these people so that they could afford to pay for the necessities of life brought to them by ships from all quarters of the world.

ANGELS ON EARTH.

What though no more in human guise,
On radiant pinions borne,
Are angels seen of mortal eyes—
Earth is not left forlorn,
Some bird that sings in hopeless hours
God's messenger may be;
And I have seen in primrose flowers
God's angels smile on me.

ANCIENT CITIES OF VAST SIZE.

There are antiquarians who doubt the correctness of the popular impression that London at its present stage of development is the most populous city that has ever existed. The city of Nineveh at one time covered nearly a hundred English square miles, and Rome under Trajan seems to have boasted a population of more than 2,000,000 free citizens without counting the multitude of slaves, the military garrison, the foreign residents and transient visitors. Ælius Aristides, a Greek historian, who flourished in the time of Antoninus, describes the "capital of the civilized universe" as follows: "As oftentimes we see a man of great strength exhibit his power by surmounting himself with a pyramid of other men, so also this city stretching forth her foundations over areas so vast, yet rearing another of corresponding proportions, and upon that another, pile resting upon pile, houses overlaying houses, in aerial succession—contemplating which one comes so convinced that if these series of strata were to be decomposed and planted upon the ground side by side, the whole vacant area of Italy would be filled with these dismantled stories, and we should be presented with the spectacle of one continuous city stretching from the sea of Tuscany to the shores of the Adriatic." Lipsius estimates that the Rome of the second century contained one-fifth the population of the Italian peninsula, as modern London does of England, and including slaves and soldiers, harbored a total of 7,000,000 inhabitants—after all only one-third more than the British Babel. Casaubon estimated the total of 4,500,600, and De Quincey at 5,000,000 to 6,000,000, including slaves and foreign mercenaries.