

can understand; and hurrying figures of men and women weaving to and fro, with no apparent purpose intelligible to a stranger, seeming like a mass of maniacs, or oftentimes, like a pageant of phantoms. The great length of the streets in many quarters of London; the continual opening of transient glimpses into other vistas equally far-stretching, going off at right angles to the one which you are traversing; and the murky atmosphere, which, settling upon the remoter end of every long avenue, wraps its termination in gloom and uncertainty—all these are circumstances aiding that sense of vastness and illimitable proportions which forever broods over the aspect of London in its interior."

It is a consequence of the vast size of London that there can be no intimacy, no unity of interest, among its different parts. It has been said that Ezekiel might be preaching in Smithfield, or Camberwell be swallowed up by an earthquake, and the people of St. John's Wood know nothing of it till they saw it announced in the newspapers next morning. Corporate life in London, such as we see in other even great cities, is an impossibility; for a hundred years, or since the Gordon riots, it has never, except perhaps lately, been agitated simultaneously in all its parts.

The great physical curse of "the modern Babylon" is its smoke and fog, which are becoming every year more and more intolerable, poisoning the citizens to such a degree that it is said that a Londoner may be known in any part of the world where he may die, if his lungs be examined, their colour is so sooty. During the fogs of 1879-80 asthma increased 220 per cent., and bronchitis 331 per cent.; and in the week ending February 13th, 1882, the dense fogs sent up the death-rate from 27.1 in the previous week to 35.3. Yet, strange to say, thanks to its scores of parks, London, in which, in the reign of George II., the deaths exceeded the births by nearly eleven thousand a year, is now, with its mortality of only twenty-one in a thousand, one of the healthiest cities on the globe. These parks, which are the lungs of the great metropolis, are probably larger and more numerous than in any other great city in the world. Some of them are the greens of the villages which the giant city has devoured in its progress; but the great majority, and especially the more extensive ones, are the gift of the Crown. What other great towns in England have owed to the munificence of rich citizens or to the self-imposed taxation of the people, London has owed to the wise liberality of the English kings, whose ancestors luckily, through love of sport, had provided themselves with ample parks for that purpose, close by the palaces in or near London. Of what inestimable value these