

morning of time shrink by usage and inquiry into the commonplace.

The Victorian Era has been characterized by wonderful discoveries in science, by material progress and increase in material comforts, by the growth of the democratic idea in economics and in politics, and by the widening of the means of education. The tendency of these influences is toward the removal of mystery. The whole world, of nature, of geography, and of society, is brought within our ken. No part of nature or of society is any longer a Druidical enclosure to the inquiring or ambitious mind. There lies the port, and whosoever will sail into these dark, broad seas may find the vessel already puffing her sail to waft him away.

These influences would undoubtedly be the death of poetry, were it not for this fact: science, while removing old mysteries, brings to light new ones; while she settles some problems, she suggests many more, and still the mystery remains. She explores hitherto untravelled worlds, only to find that the farther margin recedes in ever-widening circles. Science, in its widest aspects, overlaps philosophy and religion, and the philosophic and religious mind finds in the discoveries of science ever fresh suggestion for wonder and mystery. So long as God and His infinite world and the human mind remain, the unknown will present itself to man's imagination and reverence, and poetry will continue to be the highest expression of his longings and aspirations. "O, that I knew where I might find Him," was the longing cry of the mystic of old, and it remains the cry to-day :

An infant crying in the night;
An infant crying for the light;
And with no language but a cry.

CARLYLE A MYSTIC.

Eminently scientific though this age is, it is eminently a poetic age. The greatest writer of English prose in this century is Thomas Carlyle, and Carlyle is a mystic and, in a considerable sense, a poet. "With a conceptive imagination," says Lowell, "vigorous beyond any in his generation, with a mastery of language equalled only by the greatest poets." Carlyle's peculiar power as an interpreter of life lay in his deep insight