

have figured out that in five or ten millions of years the sun will have radiated away so much of his energy that the earth will no longer be habitable. Perhaps so; but it is certain that the whole solar system is drifting in space somewhere at the rate of seven hundred millions of miles a year, and in one million of years it may reach a region in space where the present rate of loss might be greatly reduced. In that time

it will have travelled three times the distance to the nearest of the fixed stars. It could hardly be where its expenditure would be greater than now. If it should drift into one of the great hydrogen regions such as are numerous in the heavens, not only would the supply of energy be renewed indefinitely, but the earth would become uninhabitable in an hour. At any rate, there is no guarantee in nature for permanent stability, supposing that stability should be attained; for simple mechanical impact between the sun and any of the millions of stars would not only annihilate the earth as such, but would so reduce to a nebulous mass the matter that now composes the solar system, that the whole process of world formation would have to be gone through with again. The sudden blazing out of stars here and there in the heavens show that similar physical processes are taking place elsewhere in the universe. Such an end is quite as probable as the refrigerating one referred to; for there is implied in the latter, not only that the present conditions in the solar system will continue, but that the environment of the solar system will remain for so many millions of years what it is. The matter is not alluded to here on account of its humanitarian interest, but to point out that in either case the results will be due to purely physical conditions. What mankind would contemplate as a dreadful catastrophe would be but the interaction of huge machines, where energy was transformed on a grand scale, and no particle of matter omitted for an instant to conform to the three laws of motion.

INFALLIBILITY.

HUMAN infallibility, avaunt!

The claim is impious wheresoever made;

Whether by Papist or by Protestant,

Rivals in pharisaic robes arrayed.

No one is more, and no one less, than man;

Where all are equal, who shall claim control

Over the conscience, or put under ban

The free, outspoken, independent soul?

There is no heresy in honest doubt,

Or strong dissent, where demonstration fails;

Or non-conformity, however stout;

For thus the righteous cause at last prevails.

Begone! Popes, Cardinals, Councils, Bishops—all

Who seek to hold the human mind in thrall!

—William Lloyd Garrison.