

the sun shines again now. I see my way. I shall be able to meet my obligations, and without having to ask an extension of the stipulated time, I think. This grand new idea of mine—the sublimest I have ever conceived—will save me whole, I am sure. I am leaving for San Francisco this moment to test it by the help of the great Lick telescope. Like all of my more notable discoveries and inventions, it is based upon hard, practical, scientific laws. All other bases are unsound, and hence untrustworthy.

‘In brief, then, I have conceived the stupendous idea of reorganising the climates of the earth according to the desire of the populations interested. That is to say, I will furnish climates to order, for cash or negotiable paper, taking the old climates in part payment, of course, at a fair discount, where they are in condition to be repaired at small cost, and let out for hire to poor and remote communities not able to afford a good climate, and not caring for an expensive one for mere display. My studies have convinced me that the regulation of climates and the breeding of new varieties at will from the old stock is a feasible thing. Indeed, I am convinced that it has been done before—done in prehistoric times by now forgotten and unrecorded civilisations. Everywhere I find hoary evidence of artificial manipulation of climates in bygone times. Take the glacial period. Was that produced by accident? Not at all; it was done for money. I have a thousand proofs of it, and will some day reveal them.

‘I will confide to you an outline of my idea. It is to utilise the spots on the sun; get control of them, you understand, and apply the stupendous energies which they wield to beneficent purposes in the reorganising of our climates. At present they merely make trouble and do