

“ The world was void ;  
The populous and the powerful was a lump—  
Seasonless, herbless, treeless, manless, lifeless—  
A lump of death, a chaos of hard clay.

The winds were withered in the stagnant air,  
And the clouds perished. Darkness hath no need  
Of aid from them. She was the universe.”

This is, in our opinion, one of the most terrible poems in the English language. Who can avoid an interest in a science which gives us our surest information as to the possibility or probability that the event just described may take place ?

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#### INTERIOR AFRICAN SEA.

Many persons have supposed that the French Commission which was appointed to examine De Lesseps' project condemned it, but this is a mistake. The Yellow Book, published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shows: 1. That the exactness of the scientific labors on which the project is based is beyond all question. 2. That the execution of the canal which is to be the feeder of the future sea presents no difficulty. 3. That the work would be durable, since, even if we admit the most unfavorable hypotheses with regard to evaporation and saturation, the sea would have an assured existence of more than one thousand years. 4. That in no point of view could the sea be injurious, but that, on the contrary, it would favour the development of colonization, by ameliorating the climate, diminishing malaria, and increasing the fertility. 5. Opinions have been divided as to the importance of the new route, which would be opened to commerce, to the industry and security of Algeria; however, no one has been able, from any of these points of view, completely to deny the utility of the submersion of the basin of the Chotts. General Favé and others have eloquently set forth the capital importance of the interior sea, as well in a colonial as in a military point of view.—*Comptes Rendus.*