

Many things betoken the approach of universal peace and universal freedom, though terrible struggles and tempests may intervene. The world is becoming better known to its inhabitants. Scientific art, wielding steam and electricity, has wonderfully facilitated human intercourse and will probably bring distant lands still nearer to each other. The intercommunion of nations lessens the chances of war and facilitates benevolent operations, as it makes nations sensible of their interdependence and varied advantages. Knowledge increases and circulates more widely. Japan will probably soon be opened, and China still more so, to the civilization and religion of Christendom. Free Trade has commenced its peaceful, uniting, fraternal operation. Christian missionaries are studding and educating pagan lands. The Jewish race evinces more wakefulness and energy. Despots are becoming more feverish and vigilant, and men in general are learning to appreciate the nature, origin, and conditions of both civil and ecclesiastical government. Despotism is throned on a slumbering volcano and is working against a briefly-suspended tide. The time will come, and it cannot be very distant, when men will awake as from a dream and ask—"Who are the rightful owners and controllers of these territories and their interests? Who but the people themselves? What right has any man or number of men to make laws for us, without our consent and election? Why should one or more individuals, of precisely the same nature and infirmities as ourselves, dictate to us and dispose of us as they please? We are not property but men; we are not goods and chattels but intelligent and free beings; the world is ours, not kings' and queens', not princes' and presidents', for God has given the earth to the children of men. As such, therefore, and as subordinate to God only, we will be serfs and tools no longer; we will