

years before Christ and millions of others to come after Him? The redeeming effects of Christ's blood can reach all races, in the most distant ages and places, whether they live in this land of ours or in other spheres.

You who are our brothers in intelligence, in love and in liberty; you who hover above our heads, I stretch out my hand to you in loving brotherhood. You are not indeed of the race of Adam as I am, but you are of the race of the children of God, and my heart warms to you at the very thought of this relationship. And what matters it, even though a vast abyss should intervene, since our souls meet in the same adoration? What does it matter if our astronomical countries are so different since we shall, one day, be united in the same fatherland? And when the blasphemies I hear on this planet of ours incline my heart to voluntary exile, oh, then let me soar away to your happy land; for if you live at all, you adore God, and if you adore Him He opens His bosom to receive you, and we shall one day meet in His fatherly embrace. But difficulties arise; if we suppose the planets to be inhabited, how can people live there? Mercury, for instance, is so very near the sun that, owing to this proximity, its temperature would be 121° above boiling point. To this I answer that the heat depends on the depth of the atmosphere, and increases or diminishes in proportion to the greater or less depth of the atmosphere. Again, as to Jupiter, if we take into consideration its position and the rapidity of its motion, we find that its nights must be very short, and last but five hours. The inhabitants of that planet should think of rising almost as soon as they betake themselves to bed, and what would the Jovian ladies do? They

must surely complain of nights and balls and parties so short. Fancy, five hours only for a grand ball, when it takes them half that time to complete their toilet. All this, I grant it, supposes people of a constitution different from ours. But what is a mystery to us is no puzzle for God, who can create beings endowed with the most diverse natures. Any how, we cannot consider our globe as a type and a standard, no more than we can form an opinion of the immortal compositions of Rossini and Mozart from a few detached notes we may chance to hear.

Now, to come to a conclusion. There is nothing, gentlemen, more beautiful and soul inspiring than the serious study of what we term "the great Book of Nature," in which God has carved out in capital letters his power, wisdom and other perfections. Every day we give utterance to words and sentiments of admiration when we contemplate a landscape a foamy torrent, a steep and rugged mountain; we admire the graceful shape and the brilliant colors of insects and flowers; we inhale with delight the exquisite perfume of our roses, so pure, so fresh; rubies, sapphires and emeralds dazzle our eyes. Ah! for God's sake, let us not forget the magnificent beauty of the heavens! From time to time let us soar above the visible barrier of earthly kingdoms; let us mount to the fields of unlimited space; our globe shall appear as a mere lump of clay, and its host of inhabitants as a handful of tiny insects. Our thoughts will become less terrestrial, and we shall more easily realize that here on earth we are but exiles waiting for the not far distant day when we shall ascend in reality to heaven and rest for ever upon the bosom of our heavenly Father.

