

At one o'clock precisely, on the 25th day of June, 1807, boats put off from opposite sides of the stream and rowed rapidly towards the raft. Out of each boat stepped a single individual and the both met in a small wooden apartment in the middle of the raft, while cannon thundred from either shore and the shouts of armies drawn up on both banks, drowned the roar of artillery. The two persons were the Emperors Napoleon and Alexander, and the history of the time tells us that they had met to "arrange the destinies of mankind."

The hastily constructed raft on which the interview took place, will be remembered as long as the story of great conquests and mighty revolutions can interest the mind of man.

The conference lasted but two hours; it was entirely private between two Emperors and yet it was fraught with momentous consequences to millions. It was one of the great crises in human history, when the currents of power that govern the nations take new directions and break over the bounds and barriers of ages.

Fifty years ago this present autumn, in the City of Baltimore, was held another conference of far more momentous and lasting importance to mankind, than that between Napoleon and Alexander. It was not watched with larger expectancy by great armies; it was not hailed by the thunder of cannon and the shouts of applauding thousands; it was not arranged beforehand by keen and watchful agents, guarding the interests and safety of those who were to meet. It was at night—in a private house and was brought about by the mingled anxiety and desire of a few earnest men to know more of the truths which had so fired their imagination and charmed their senses. And yet from that humble night conference between Dr. Chapin A. Harris and his associates, there have gone forth beams of light and hopes of relief to the ends of the earth.

The plans formed by Napoleon and Alexander at Tilsit, were reversed and defeated long ago, and it is impossible to trace their influence in the conditions of European nations to-day, while from the plans and purposes of that other conference, have gone forth blessings which have already changed the condition and cheered the hearts of millions and have more influence in the world to-day than ever before, and are destined to go on increasing in power and influence until they shall be received as the harbinger of comfort and joy to every nation under heaven.