

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF HIS COMING? 11

ward the unity of the nations and the solidarity of the race.

Third, there is also the prophecy of the dawn and supremacy of a universal democracy. "Then shall appear the sign of the son of man in heaven"—"I will make a man more precious than fine gold." Democracy, Socialism, Brotherhood—these are the watch words of the present hour; and they are but the echo of a revolution, scarcely a century old, which carved on its newly erected pillars of granite the words, "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity." The nations are rising in the strength of a dawning conviction that humanity must wield the sceptre of sovereignty. National consciousness is but international consciousness in the germ. The earth is the Lord's and the fruit thereof the heritage of all the children of men. Humanity has, at last, discovered itself! That was a searching question asked by Theodore Parker concerning Goethe: "What did he ever do for humanity?"

Fourth, there are repeated suggestions and reiterated predictions of the end of war and the inauguration of universal peace. "Nations shall learn war no more"—"There shall be war and rumors of war but the end is not yet"—Not until humanity is through with wholesale carnage and cruelty will the climax of history begin to break in planetary music on the harp of destiny. This is the vision of our seers and prophets to-day, and Tennyson has given articulation to the dreamer's vision in those oft-quoted words:

"I look into the future, far as human eye can see,
I caught a vision of the world and the glory that shall be