

Possibly the little already known may enable us to see farther into the darkness of the future, and to assist at events which are not yet. Possibly we may succeed in contemplating in thought the spectacle of human history beyond the evil days of strife and ignorance, and there again behold the picture of grandeur and beauty already unfolded by the earth.

Here is what I would fain study according to the measure of my strength. From the myriad facts which I have had to record from chapter to chapter I would fain extract a general idea, and thus, in a small volume written at leisure, justify the long series of books now ended without apparent conclusion.

ELISÉE RECLUS.

