

Comes now, as then, in all its loveliness,
And Winter, with its aspect cold and drear,
Comes now, as then, to close the dying year.
But great the change, comparing now with then,
Brought to the world in all the works of men.
A thousand lights, from factory windows gleam,
On the dark night beside the winding stream,
Which then through tangled thicket wound its way,
'Mid all the wildness of the early day;
And of the stars which then in glory shone,
New facts has science to the world made known,
As heaven's broad scope, so beautiful and grand,
Has, by new glasses, been minutely scanned,
And planets, moons and comets, then unknown,
Now have their place within the starry zone.
The vivid lightning filled the heavens with light,
Then, just as now, in the wild stormy night;
A messenger of wrath, regarded then,
But now, it bears kind messages to men.
To man subservient, on the darkened night,
It fills the city with its useful light;
And through old ocean's dark and dismal cells,
The news of Europe, to the new world tells.
And, drawn by lightning through the busy street,
Men now ride safely, in an easy seat.
Not then, as now, did costly church spires rise,
To greet the sunlight in the morning skies;
But settlers' homes, abodes of toil and care,
Were places too for praise and fervent prayer.
No colleges, with their endowments great,
Supported by the Church or by the State,
Opened their portals to those sterling men;
Yet some e'en then were mighty with the pen.
Then, on the margin of a quiet wood,
The school house, in its former rudeness, stood;
Where boys with sparkling eyes as rubies bright,
Came day by day, to learn to read and write;
At close of term received no parchment scroll,
But left fair names upon the teacher's roll.
But now the Normal School, with means so great,
Supported from the coffers of the State,
And colleges, with their professors wise,
Give to the youth a noble chance to rise
To stations high in intellectual worth,
And rank among the great and good of earth.
In all the changes of each changing year,
The men whose records in this book appear,
Have borne their part quite nobly as a race,
In all the generations that we trace;