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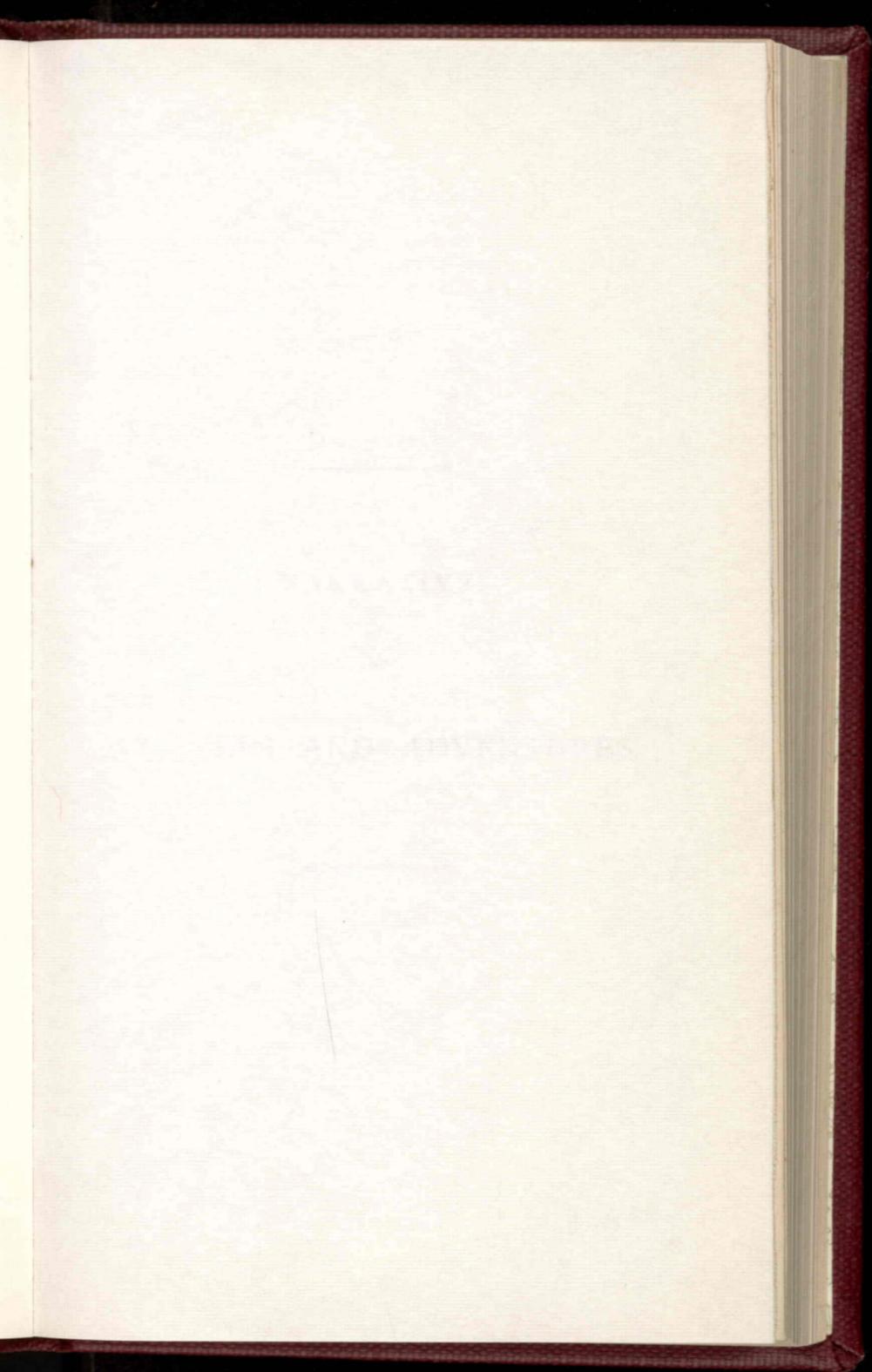


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NARRATIVE
OF
TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES.

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TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES
AMONG THE PLANETS.

This is all rest!

CHAPTER I.

IN recounting the most remarkable adventures that probably have ever fallen to the lot of man to experience, it may be interesting to know something of the circumstances which led to them. I shall therefore give briefly some particulars of my early days.

My father was a native of Paris, in France, where, with my grandfather, he worked in a laboratory; and they both enjoyed the reputation of being excellent chemists. In 1783 the whole establishment was one morning surrounded by officers of the government, and the workmen were all marched off to the Bastille. My father, at a favorable moment on the way, darted from the soldiers, rushed

through some intricate passages, and succeeded in effecting his escape. The men had been accused of treasonable designs; and, although they were loud-talking politicians, my father declared that they were not guilty of the charge made against them. My grandfather and his associates were never heard of afterward by my father, who, moneyless and without friends, made his way to Havre-de-Grace, where he embarked as cook on board an American vessel bound to New York.

After many vicissitudes in America, he married the daughter of a druggist, and set up an apothecary-shop in the town of Albany, in the northern part of New York. I am the eldest of five children of this marriage, and was born Oct. 8, 1796. At an early age I displayed a mechanical genius, and possessed a philosophical mind, for I was always studying into causes and effects: but my parents took no care of my education; I was suffered to run at large, and was unable to read at twelve years of age. My father was very irritable, and frequently turned me away from his workshop, where I took great pleasure in making experiments. Perhaps I was imbued with a portion of his temper; for on such occasions I would think of running away.

One day, as I was on the point of making a discovery in chemistry as I imagined, my father, in one of his fits of passion, came in, seized my materials that had been so nicely adjusted, and threw them into the reservoir; then pushed me into the street, and forbade my ever meddling there again.

This was more than I could bear, and I determined to go off that very night; accordingly, before my blood was cooled, I packed a few things into a small bag, and, boldly telling the family that they would not see me again, I went off, I knew not whither. I had but one dollar in money with me: that dollar I took from the neck of my youngest sister. I walked all night, and the next day joined a party of sailors who were on their way to Boston, to ship on board of privateers. I congratulated myself in having found such good companions. We were eight days on the road; and within twenty-four hours after our arrival in that town, we shipped on board a vessel bound for the West Indies, and went immediately on board. The vessel, then lying in the channel, was called the "Jacob Jones." Some days passed before she was ready for sea; during which time, not being allowed to go on shore, I became heartily sick of a

sailor's life at its very commencement. At last, all being ready, the ship put to sea. As there was then a war with England, all on board were continually estimating the amount of prize-money that might be distributed at the end of the voyage; for the "Jacob Jones" had a letter of marque, and it was expected that a great many prizes would be captured. It turned out, however, that nothing was taken; and, with the exception of a long-shot fight with an English East-India Company's ship off the Cape of Good Hope, without benefit to us, nothing occurred during the passage of much interest; and we arrived safely on the coast of China, where we were chased by an English frigate, but, outsailing her, we reached Canton without further trouble.

A tedious blockade of many months followed; during which time I often thought of leaving the ship, and of attempting to pass through Asia to Europe, and was as often laughed out of it by my companions, upon none of whom could I prevail to accompany me. I believe I should have started alone, had we remained much longer.

One day notice was given that the ship was to be rigged (she had been dismantled), and was to go to sea in the evening. By immense labor the work

was completed ; and, to the great joy of all on board, she started on her homeward passage at the appointed hour. The night being very dark, we escaped the English fleet ; and, having on board a valuable cargo, we ran away from every vessel that came in sight, to the disgust of the crew, as it blighted their hopes of capturing prizes. On the American coast, a small vessel communicated to us the news of peace between the two nations : a few days later we arrived at Boston. This, my first voyage, cured my passion for a sailor's life ; notwithstanding, my desire for travelling and visiting foreign countries was so strong, that I determined to follow the profession, but to make such voyages only as would afford me the best opportunities of seeing the world.

I next embarked as cabin-boy on board a brig bound to Marseilles ; at which port I ran away from the vessel, in hopes of finding employment more congenial to my mind ; besides, I disliked the mate. I soon discovered that I had made a mistake ; for, after some weeks, my money and nearly all my clothes were gone. I had found out that one could not travel as in America, but was to be registered at every station, and to be provided with a travelling passport, all of which involved expenses

beyond my means. My only alternative, then, was to engage on board a ship bound beyond the Cape of Good Hope; the captain being willing to take me as a foremast hand. I went this voyage reluctantly. At Batavia I was left in the hospital, ill of a fever. I soon recovered from it, and cruised about the China Seas for two years, and finally reached Calcutta, after having served in various capacities on board many different vessels.

At Calcutta I was so fortunate as to get into the good graces of an officer of the East-India Company, Capt. Russell, who, with two other gentlemen, was about to leave for England by the land-route. I offered to attend the party as steward: my services were accepted. I shall not attempt to enter into any detail of that weary journey: it is enough to say, that it was by land and water, and we reached Malta in three months from the day of leaving Calcutta.

Our stay was short at Malta. The party separated: Capt. Russell allowed me to continue with him to England. We crossed over to Sicily, thence to Naples and to Rome. This journeying afforded me the opportunity I had long wished for, of seeing some of the principal cities of Europe. I let not a single moment pass unimproved. At Rome

Capt. Russell learned that some members of his family were at Venice: he determined to proceed to that city; but, on arrival, he was much disappointed at learning that those he sought had left for England a week before. We then made rapid work of travel. We passed Mont Cenis to Geneva, thence to Paris, where Capt. Russell overtook his relatives: they were on the point of leaving, but at the solicitation of the captain they remained a few days to give him time to recruit; for our journey from Milan had been a forced one, and very fatiguing. We soon started afresh, and in four days reached London. Capt. Russell having no further occasion for my services, I was discharged; and, for his kindness and generosity towards me, I shall ever feel the liveliest sense of gratitude.

I was then my own master, with a trunk full of good clothes, and forty pounds sterling in money. I lost no time in looking for a situation, and soon procured one as second officer on board an American brig then lying off Dover: she was from the West Indies, bound to Russia. Having lost her officers and several men by fever on the passage, she touched at Dover for assistance. Her complement of men being made good, she proceeded on the voyage, and arrived at Cronstadt. The cargo was

discharged, and another taken in; when the brig sailed for Boston, and safely arrived. That ended my career as a sailor; for I determined never again to serve on board a ship.

CHAPTER II.



I WAS at that time twenty-two years of age ; and, feeling no longer any fear of parental control, I determined to make a visit to Albany. As I approached the house in which I had been born, the recollections of my boyish days rushed vividly to my mind. I was ignorant whether it was still occupied by my parents : indeed, I did not know that they were in the land of the living, having never heard of them during the whole period of my absence, — some six years. My heart beat almost audibly as I rapped at the well-known door. My sister appeared, — the one from whom I had taken the dollar so long before (which dollar I had ever retained in my possession). She instantly recognized me, although I was much altered. She shrieked violently, and ran up stairs, exclaiming, “Paul has come home!” An interesting meeting followed ; and, as may be supposed, I met a cordial reception from the whole family. My father had

suffered much from ill-health, and was then confined to his chamber. He treated me with great kindness, which affected me so much, that I experienced remorse at having left him; that feeling, however, was not new to me. My services, I soon discovered, were needed in his establishment; and I resolved to remain, and render whatever assistance it was in my power to give, as long as he should continue to be an invalid. In a short time I became as much interested in the business as I had been in my younger days. My father gradually lost his strength; and, in seven months after my return home, he expired, leaving his affairs to my management, and my mother, two sisters, and two brothers to my care. The two boys were old enough to be of service in the works.

About that time I read, in some foreign journal, an account of a successful balloon ascension, made in Europe. It excited my imagination: I thought of nothing but of making a similar experiment, and at once set about devising means to accomplish the object. Many nights I spent alone in the shop, trying to obtain a gas that would answer my purpose; and at last I succeeded to my own satisfaction: the rapid ascension of several small balloons testified to the excellence of the gas I had

obtained. I then set about constructing a large balloon. Fortunately our business was very profitable. I had so methodically arranged every thing, that I could appropriate a large portion of time to that object without detriment to the successful operations of the concern. I was eight months preparing that balloon. I did all the work myself, and it would have reflected credit upon any artisan. At that stage I informed my mother and sisters of what I was about to do,—that I was going into the clouds in a balloon: that the machine I had been so long at work upon was the balloon. They expressed consternation. Their tears and protestations, perhaps, would have persuaded any one less determined than myself to have abandoned the enterprise; but my whole soul was bent upon it and nothing could turn me.

I fixed upon the 21st day of August, 1819, for the grand ascension to take place from our country farm-house, about one mile out from Albany. The day was as favorable as could be desired. I selected a grass-plot adjoining the orchard, back from our house, for the starting-point, and began to inflate the balloon early in the morning. At noon all was in readiness. Although the project had been kept private, yet, soon after the inflation

commenced, a large concourse of people had assembled on the ground to witness the "rash attempt." I was not daunted. The weather was calm and serene, and my feelings were lulled into the same cool and unruffled state. My balloon appeared beautifully. The lines were removed, excepting a single rope, which held the car to the stump of a tree. I stepped into the car amidst the shouts of the spectators, and began immediately to pay out the line which passed through a hole in the bottom. The balloon rose majestically about one hundred feet (the length of the line): then I let go, and away we soared almost perpendicularly, for a mile, I should think, and then floated slowly to the northward. The gas expanded so much, that I was afraid the balloon would burst: I opened the valve to allow a little to escape, and could not close it again. Fortunately the valve was small, and the gas escaped slowly; nevertheless, I was considerably alarmed, and much more so when I discovered that the balloon was descending. I soon recovered my self-possession; and, when within a hundred yards of the ground, I threw out all the ballast and other movable things, that checked the rapid descent; and I touched the ground very gently, in a corn-field about two miles from the starting-place.

I secured my balloon to a stump until I could obtain assistance, which was speedily at hand ; and at three o'clock I was home again. That very successful experiment inspired me with fresh courage, and a determination to make further trials ; but the cost of inflating a balloon was so great, that my means would not allow of it as a daily sport ; and I thought I might discover a gas less expensive, and more easily generated. My balloon was nicely stowed away ; and again I set about my midnight studies. I knew that two or more substances of peculiar natures could be so prepared and combined as to form a light gas ; and my great object was to condense the materials to so small a bulk, that a supply might be taken upon an aerial excursion, to make up for any deficiency which might accidentally occur. I made rapid progress in my studies, and soon found that I could inflate a balloon at less than one-third the expense of the first experiment ; but this did not satisfy me, — the materials were yet too bulky. The season had so far advanced, that I deferred another ascension until the next summer. During the greater part of the winter I was engaged in exploring the wonders and mysteries of chemistry, and became satisfied that many astonishing things not

even dreamed of were to be brought to light in that science. I will not detail all the particulars of the discovery I had made of the long and earnestly-sought object I had had in view. It happened by the merest accident. One night, after several vain experiments, as I was about to retire, I threw my preparations on a heap of sweepings; when an explosion took place, and instantly the room was filled with gas. My feelings at that moment cannot be described. I knew the ingredients of the heap, and what caused the explosion; and I considered my work accomplished. After a few days the fact was attested. I could carry sufficient material in the car to inflate the balloon several times over. I determined to make an ascension on the fourteenth day of May, and accordingly made preparations. The day was fair and suitable: few persons witnessed the experiment. In less than one hour the balloon was in readiness to cast adrift. I found my sanguine expectations verified; but so many alterations were required in the structure of the lower part of my balloon, to allow me to take advantage of my new discovery, that I concluded not to let the line run out. I opened the valve, which now worked to a charm, and gradually descended. It took a month to make these new arrangements.

I thought, at my next flight, to visit the border of the Atlantic Ocean if the wind favored ; or to go south to the Carolinas ; and even of crossing the wide Atlantic. I made extensive preparations ; for I had a vague presentiment that I should be many days on my next excursion, which I had fixed for the first day of July : provisions were to serve me for ballast. My extra powders were nicely packed in bottles : I had prepared a large stock. Epithets of madman, fool, and such like, were freely applied to me. I was laughed at and ridiculed by almost every one. Nothing of that kind irritated me in the least. I felt an unaccountable degree of confidence in the success of my intended enterprise ; but how, in what way, or in what direction, I had no definite idea, for I had fixed upon no plan. All had been left to be decided according to circumstances after I had quitted *terra firma*.

All the necessary arrangements were completed to my fullest satisfaction ; and, on the evening of the thirtieth day of June, I retired to rest in the most sanguine and delightful humor imaginable.

CHAPTER III.

THE earliest dawn found me gazing from my window, watching the indications of the weather. The bright sun, in all his majesty, soon appeared, clearing every doubt; and the day, the eventful day, July 1, 1820, had set in before I descended from my chamber. I tried to be cheerful and gay; for the family moved so noiselessly about the house, and wore such gloomy countenances, that it made me feel quite melancholy: it seemed to me, that they apprehended some dreadful disaster; yet none of them uttered one word of discouragement to me. I did all I could to cheer them; and, as visitors came in, that feeling wore off. After breakfast all happiness was restored, and we proceeded to the lawn in the greatest good spirits to witness the spectacle. Many people had already assembled on the grounds: carriages, wagons, carts, and vehicles of every description, were put in requisition for the occasion. It gave me pleasure to see

so many present, so confident did I feel in my success.

At ten o'clock the apparatus was brought to the spot, and I immediately commenced the inflation. The facility of producing my gas, and its extraordinary buoyancy, exceeded my expectations: three charges more than half filled the balloon. I took into the car (which was well lined with a prepared oil canvas, two thicknesses, with a coat of tar between, and wholly impervious to water), twenty-one bottles of composition for gas, provisions for a week at least, some cordials, a tool-box, with patches of canvas, sewing-thread, &c., an overcoat and cloak, and my apparatus for generating gas. I took also my fowling-piece, powder, shot, and balls. I was dressed in a pair of white duck pantaloons, white vest, blue striped seersucker coat, and a black morocco hat. All being in readiness, I put two more charges into the balloon from the car; and at eleven o'clock I began to ascend. Upon a signal, the line was cast loose, and the balloon mounted with great rapidity, trending away to the south-east. I sat very composedly in the car, gazing at the spot I had just left. The cheer of the multitude soon died upon my ears, and the scene soon faded from my sight. I was lost in a

reverie ; but the beauty of the scenery below brought me to myself. No description could give an adequate idea of its magnificence, or the vast expanse that the eye could take in : the roads appeared like pencil-marks, houses were mere spots, lakes like plates of glass. I was enchanted. On my first aerial voyage, I lost all that enjoyment in the excitement occasioned by the danger of being precipitated to the ground, and dashed to pieces. At this time I gazed in wonder and amazement. The atmosphere was particularly clear. I could distinguish very distant objects ; and I could lean over the side of the car, and look down perpendicularly, without the least giddiness. I could perceive that I was travelling at a rapid rate towards the south, and at the same time ascending. I could no longer distinguish houses ; and the fields and meadows appeared like spots. I concluded that the balloon must be invisible from below. I let a quantity of gas escape, in order to descend a little. At about four o'clock, P.M., as near as I could judge, I could again distinguish houses, but could recognize no part of the country. I suppose that I must have passed over a great distance. Still determined to keep to my resolution of remaining several days in the air, I replenished

the balloon with gas. Soon a light haze, or mist, shut from my view the earth. I felt exceedingly cold, and had recourse to my great-coat. After partaking a hearty meal, I added another charge of gas to the balloon, to make sure of keeping aloft during the night. The sun had disappeared, and all was darkness around me. I lighted a lantern, and it seemed to me as though the whole heavens were illuminated by the light. I thought a great deal of wonder must have been excited below by the appearance. After a while, the stars became visible, the clouds had cleared away, or I had passed through them. I could not tell whether it was the earth or clouds that I saw below me. My fancies sometimes pictured trees, and sometimes clouds; but, from the temperature, I concluded that I had attained a great altitude, and was safe from the danger of touching the ground in the night. I muffled myself in my cloak, in the bottom of the car, and, being fatigued, I fell almost immediately asleep: how long I remained so, I cannot tell; when I awoke, the sun was visible. I was suffering excruciating agony throughout my whole body, and I was so weak as to be unable to rise. I tried in vain to reach the line connected with the valve, in order to let escape some gas, for the bal-

loon appeared to be ready to burst. I thought at first that I might be partially frozen, it was so exceedingly cold ; but that was not the case. Violent fits of vomiting seized me, followed by fainting. I could scarcely breathe, and I gave myself up as lost. The sharp shooting pains I experienced were dreadful: no tortures of the Indians could be more acute. Moments of insensibility came over me. Recovering from one of those, I was conscious that I did not breathe. I immediately put my hand to my pulse : it had ceased to beat. The impression came over me that I was dead ; and I exclaimed involuntarily, " Good God, I am dead ! " No sound did I hear, and I was appalled. I could see and feel, and yet all the internal functions of my system seemed to have ceased. I remained in that state many minutes, trying to bring to my mind what had occurred. Some miraculous change had taken place, — what, I could not tell. I saw that I was with my balloon. I observed by a small rent that it had burst ; and, in the apprehension that I might be precipitated to the ground, I made a desperate effort to rise, when I found that I had free use of my limbs. The alarm occasioned by the rupture of my balloon drove all else from my mind, and I hastened to throw in a supply of gas.

Two of the ingredients were mixed in the jar ; and, as I added the third to cause fusion, the expansion of the gas was so sudden as to throw me down violently, the balloon was distended, and burst entirely apart. I began then to look about ; for, until that moment, I had made no observations as to my position in the heavens. I could perceive no signs of descending, neither could I at first distinguish the earth : all was blue ether below. My astonishment and feelings at that moment can be better imagined than described. I was overwhelmed. I sat quietly a long time, endeavoring to collect my scattered senses ; for I thought I must be out of my head, or in a dream. I spoke and sang ; but could not hear my own voice, although I was fully sensible that I had spoken and sung. The more I tried to account for my condition, the more bewildered I became. I could neither breathe, feel my heart beat, nor utter a sound ; yet I had no sense of suffocation, but, on the contrary, I never felt so perfectly well in my life. I experienced a degree of elasticity and joyousness I had never before known. While reflecting on the unaccountable occurrences that had happened, I drew from my pocket a roll of tobacco, and put a piece to my mouth ; but, not relishing it,

I threw it from the car, when I was astonished at seeing it pass off in a straight line horizontally until out of sight, instead of falling perpendicularly, as I imagined it ought to have done; at the same moment, directly above the balloon, I discovered the earth. It appeared like an immense circular black cloud, so well defined, that I could not be mistaken; along the edge towards the sun was a bright streak, which looked like snow or ice. I supposed it to be the ocean. I imagined at first, that the earth was moving with great rapidity; for in a very short time, instead of over head, it was upon a level with the balloon, and gradually sank until it came directly under the car. I grasped the cord of the valve with the intent to descend, not recollecting that the balloon had burst; but, at another glance, the earth was by my side again, and rising. From its relative position to the sun, I soon perceived it was the balloon that was turning so strangely about, and which was moving, I believe, with almost inconceivable velocity. Every moment I was inspired with fresh courage, and I began to venture about. I seemed to have lost my weight, and so with every thing in the car; for, upon taking up a bottle of water, a proportionate exertion to the weight being made, it came up so violently as to stretch my

arm above my head. Wonder after wonder broke upon my astonished senses. I became aware that I could sit or recline in any position with perfect ease, without touching the seat or any part of the car; and whichever way I turned, my head always seemed upward. Upon passing things out of the car gently, they would remain where placed; but, if tossed out, they would fly off out of sight. It was a long time before I ventured to leave the car. So fearful was I that we might be separated, I kept a line fastened to my waist. I did, however, go forth; and the ease with which I could move about was perfectly delightful: it seemed as though I could fly by merely stretching forth my hand, or bending forward. I took advantage of that to inspect my balloon, and to make the necessary repairs, and put the machine in order for any new event.

It was plainly apparent that the earth was moving off: the bright part had increased gradually, so that the whole surface shone, dimly at first, but brighter and brighter. I took no note of time. The sun appeared always in the same spot; no stars were visible; a watch would have been of no service to me without the strictest attention, yet I regretted that I had none.

Several times I put food to my mouth, but could eat nothing: once, indeed, I swallowed a piece of bread, and paid dearly for it; for, after severe suffering, the bread was thrown from my stomach, and I concluded that I required no nourishment. My internal system was still. I was happy and blissful, and had no wish to touch the earth again; and it was with delight that I saw the distance between us constantly increasing. That happiness, however, was checked for a short time. The magnitude of the moon, which had attained the apparent size of the earth, convinced me that I was fast approaching her; and the idea of alighting upon her filled me with consternation. Her aspect was chilly and forbidding; her motion, however, soon became retrograde, and I would have given almost any thing for a telescope, the moment I discovered that fact. Then I gazed constantly at her: with the certainty of being clear of her, I experienced the deepest interest in contemplating her innumerable varieties. She diminished in size; and for a considerable time I could see her pass directly to and fro across the earth, until she disappeared. Finally I lost sight of the earth: then for a long time I had nothing but the sun and my balloon to gaze at; yet I passed not one tedious moment. I had been

in the heavens, I should judge, several months, it might have been years, when I observed a large, pale star. Its size continually increased; and when apparently it had attained the magnitude of the moon, I discovered several smaller stars passing the face of the larger, forward and backward.

It soon occurred to me that there was a probability of my getting within the influence of that unknown globe; and I felt, as it may easily be imagined a mariner would feel, when in a tempest, to discover himself to be on a lee shore, or amongst rocks and quicksands. However, after the conviction came over me that I was destined to alight upon it, and that no power or effort of mine could avert it, I became reconciled to my fate, and new feelings of curiosity and interest took possession of me. The small stars that were playing so beautifully about the other, I judged to be moons; and there were four of them, which convinced me that the body I was approaching was the planet Jupiter, with his four satellites. My imagination pictured all that was fascinating on the faces of those orbs: for they were full and bright, with every variety of shade; and new colors were constantly developed until I came near the satellites, when they acquired an icy appearance, and the planet became very

pale. I must have moved along with extreme swiftness; for I passed within the circle of those moons before I was aware of it. My course had been almost direct from the sun, as I judged from the position of the planet, which had been always directly opposite to it. As I approached the new world (new to me, at least), it assumed a very sombre appearance; and I could perceive that I no longer moved in a straight line, for the sun and planet were drawing together. I thought it time to prepare for a descent. My apparatus was all in perfect order, and the balloon could be inflated in a very few moments. The planet, then having the appearance of an immense cloud, passed slowly before the sun, which became totally eclipsed. Three moons of different magnitudes shone beautifully, and the stars were visible again. A welcome sight! I recognized the North Star, the Pointers, the Pleiades, and many others I had been accustomed to observe when a mariner. These familiar objects made me feel as though I had arrived home; and I thought of my mother and sister and friends, as if I were to meet them and be welcomed by them. I could not realize that I was about to touch another world; although those mild and beautiful moons convinced me that I was far, very

far, from my native earth. A sense of suffocation came over me, and I concluded that I was getting into the atmosphere of the planet. I observed, too, that I had come in contact with the seat, and that my feet were resting on the bottom of the car. Giddiness and faintness followed, with a convulsive fit, as if I had received a powerful shock. I became insensible. On regaining consciousness, I was made aware that the organs of my body had resumed their functions, by inhaling delightful odors. I breathed again; I heard my own voice; and my sensations for a little while I am not able to describe. I lost no time in preparing some gas; and the smallest quantity inflated the balloon fully. The planet was then directly under the car, and made a very beautiful appearance. The mingled rays of the moons, together with those of the sun, which was just rising, caused extraordinary stripes to appear, like immensely broad rainbows. I had observed those bows for a long time previous to going into the atmosphere of the planet, and could in no way account for them. The sun rose very fast; and I was eager to get a sight of the ground as early as possible, to determine whether or not I was in a suitable quarter of the globe upon which to alight. I was afraid of the water, and could not

then distinguish it from the land, but thought I was over the land, from the rich fragrance of the atmosphere. I threw out some feathers, and observed that I was descending rapidly. The sun had about reached the meridian, when I first distinguished the colors of the face of the country. Groves of trees and cleared patches appeared soon after; and then I saw an enormous bird sailing about at a considerable distance from me; then another, and another, in a different direction. They were so large, and looked so strangely, that I felt much alarm lest they might be birds of prey, and be disposed to make an attack upon me or my balloon. My gun was well loaded: I primed it afresh, and got ready for a shot. I then checked the descent, to consider a little. I could distinguish at a distance a thick settlement, or city, and, beneath, scattered houses and grounds well laid out. Several lakes and a river were to be seen; but I was then too high to form a correct judgment of the objects below. I observed two or three birds approaching. I raised my gun to give them a proper reception; but in a little time, to my great astonishment, I discovered what I had before taken for birds to be machines, or air-carriages. The first that came near contained two persons richly

dressed, something in the Oriental style. The carriage was the most beautiful thing I ever beheld, — very like a bird : it scaled about with wings with as much ease as any sea-bird. One of the party governed the movements of the machine, while the other sat gazing intently at me. I could hear their voices, — pleasant voices : they appeared to be consulting about something, and pointed in various directions, when one of them cried out to me. The expression was mild and sweet ; and my fears, if I had any, were dissipated at once. I replied, “I do not understand you.” The other then spoke, and in such tones as to fill me with confidence and pleasure. I repeated, that I did not understand. After talking together a few moments, they addressed me again. Several other carriages by that time had come alongside, with one, two, three, and four persons in each, — all beautiful carriages and handsome people. Much conversation was held between them. I heard the word “kweelyo” often used. My attention was engaged by the wonderful control these machines were under. They were made to shoot ahead or backward, rise or sink, or scale off with great velocity, by merely pressing down springs ; and all done with one hand, while the guide at the same time appeared in conversa-

tion. My first friends motioned for me to descend; and, upon observation, I saw that I might alight in a beautiful park. I determined to take advantage of it. I opened the valve for the gas to escape, and made a rapid descent, accompanied by several of the strangers. I touched the ground near a tree, and with my line succeeded in making fast my balloon to it.

CHAPTER IV.

Four of the carriages alighted near by. When about fifty feet from the ground, a weight was lowered from them, by which they were gently hauled down. The people, as they stepped forth, appeared to be about six feet in height, well proportioned, with clear, florid complexions: their costumes were of various colors, — all loose, rich, and very becoming.

I was immediately surrounded by people; and great curiosity was manifested concerning me. I held out my hand to the first that approached, which he took; and I shook his heartily, but he did not seem to understand it: my greeting was evidently new to him. There had assembled as many as fifty persons. Their manners were so dignified, yet so mild and gracious, that I concluded I had fallen amongst a superior order of beings. I restrained my curiosity as much as possible, and set to work with all diligence to reduce my balloon to

a portable condition ; which was very soon effected with the assistance of the bystanders. I began then to look about for a proper place to bestow it, when my friend who had first addressed me, and who wore a blue girdle and a blue cap, beckoned me to follow him. We passed a few rods amongst fruit-trees to an avenue which led to a magnificent circular building about a hundred feet high. The roof was covered with a polished red metal, and was supported by beautiful pillars of a bluish variegated stone : the cornices were grotesque, and of great depth. From the centre of the roof rose a spire fully five hundred feet high, covered with the same red polished metal : the top was surmounted by a large transparent globe.

I supposed myself to be in the grounds of some great personage. Trees were scattered here and there, loaded with rich and inviting fruits. As we approached the temple, my friend of the blue, pointing to it, said, "Boolyo;" which I supposed to be its name. Many people came out to meet us. I was the subject of their inquiries. A great many air-carriages were standing about the grounds; others were arriving. The entrances of the "Boolyo," for such was its name, were as numerous as the pillars which surrounded it. The first led to a

passage-way which encircled the whole building, and was about twenty-five or thirty feet broad; and at every few rods distance was a staircase of half the breadth of the passage-way, leading to the story above. Other passages led directly through the building, crossing the centre something like the card of a mariner's compass. All along these passages were stalls, or small rooms: many of them were filled with packages; and each compartment was labelled with different-colored characters. I concluded then that the place was a great depot, or market; for there appeared to be every description of merchandise packed away there in large quantities. On reaching a vacant stall, my guide cried out something; and immediately several persons brought in my balloon, and stowed it snugly away, giving me to understand that I must take notice of the place. I saw that all was safe, and then I followed my friend in blue, accompanied by several others, up a flight of stairs to a room very comfortably arranged with couches covered with silk-like cloth, like velvet, but fully an inch in thickness. There were upon them some robes of the same material. Some fruit was brought, such as I had never before seen, of which we partook. After my long fasting, it was delicious to me: I thought

I had never tasted any thing equal to it. In size and appearance it resembled the dorean of our East Indies. Other fruit of several varieties was also brought, all new to me. Water was drawn from a fountain, and a delectable sirup from another fountain. After satisfying the cravings of the appetite, the remnants were cleared away, when the sky gradually became darkened; then suddenly a report was heard, of an unearthly description, but somewhat resembling the sound of the gong, which continued to ring or vibrate for a minute or two, tapering off with the sweetest sound imaginable. My friends left me, motioning me to lie down and sleep; but the excitement was so great that it was impossible.

I had not the slightest inclination for it. The sudden disappearance of daylight astonished me. I thought some strange phenomenon in nature had occurred. I went to an alcove, and looked out. The sun had set, the stars were shining, and, from the shadows, two moons were up, but from my position they could not be seen. I thought the evening magnificent, and I remained some time watching the people passing about.

There was a plenty of food for the imagination; and almost any other one than myself would have

stopped there until morning; but I withdrew to the apartment, and threw myself upon a couch, and was just losing myself in sleep, when that tremendous noise was heard again, dying away as before, in rich, honeyed tones. I fell asleep,—a restless sleep. I dreamed of stranger things than I had as yet witnessed. Another report brought me on to my feet; and it was daylight. All was astir below. I performed hastily my ablutions, and drank some of the sirup with water. My friend of the blue then came in, and took me by the hand and led me forth. In passing out, we encountered many persons, all of whom had more or less to ask respecting me; but none followed. We went directly to the spot where I had alighted the day before. I observed that the grounds were well covered with fruit-trees (some of prodigious size), bearing a great variety of fruits. The aerial carriage, or kweelyo, of my friend was where it had been left; and I was desired to enter it. That delighted me. I examined the machine critically, and then stepped in. The companion of my friend in blue managed the machine. The interior of the car was lined with a rich, soft stuff. Two could sit comfortably, and four might crowd in. My friend's companion took the front seat at a table, under-

neath which was the apparatus. There were two transparent and elastic globes filled with liquid, one clear like water, the other yellow; these were connected by tubes to a metal ball, which stood directly under the centre of the table: the globes were on either side. On the table were several springs, or keys: the guide pressed down one of them, which opened a valve, allowing the liquid from one globe to run into the metal-ball; then another was pressed, which allowed liquid from the other ball to flow into the metal one: the union of the two liquids expanded into gas, which filled the cap, when the machine rose from the ground slowly. At about one hundred feet from the ground, a line with a weight was drawn up by machinery; and when up, and the way clear, more power was given, and the carriage mounted swiftly. A propeller was hung in the rear, like a ship's rudder: it was about six feet long, and four feet broad, which was made to move from side to side with great force by machinery. The head of the car, or nose, projected about six feet, and was about four feet broad, lying flat or horizontally, with a similar piece connected, running perpendicularly. All that was very light, as was the steering apparatus. A handle, or lever, came into the car, by

which the nose or head could be moved in any required direction. From the sides extended wings, laid horizontally, but which could be turned up perpendicularly at pleasure by pressing a pedal. The balloon part of the machine was overhead, and remarkably small for the weight it could sustain: it was fastened to the roof of the car. The roof was of metal, and slightly convex, and was secured to the car by metal-rods. The balloon was of elastic cloth, and ordinarily fitted close to the roof; but, when filled for travelling, it could be distended to an extraordinary degree. The clock-work part of the machinery was very compact: it was enclosed in a case, so that I could not see its movements. The whole machine could not have exceeded two hundred pounds in weight: it was remarkably strong, being made mostly of metal. Those machines were beautiful to the eye. I enjoyed the same pleasure in looking at them that I always enjoyed in beholding a finely-rigged vessel.

My attention was soon drawn from the study of the machine by the velocity of its motion. We had ascended to a great height, and were scaling along, inclining downward. I looked about, and became again sensible of my situation; for in my own thoughts it was difficult to realize that I was

in a new world ; but when I gazed around, and beheld such novel and wonderful sights, I was completely bewildered. At a distance was visible the boolyo we had left : its tall and stately spire and globe, reflecting the rays of the sun, made a dazzling and fiery appearance. Below were buildings and temples of grotesque and enchanting forms, interspersed with gardens, lakes, trees, and forest. We passed several "interminable castles," I might call them. My spirit for the romantic (and I possessed a goodly share) was fired at the sight of them, and I longed to penetrate and explore the vast extent within their walls. The atmosphere was exceedingly clear, and my eyes seemed almost to touch the most distant object. Many buildings sparkled as though covered with precious stones, and all were of bright and gay colors. Every little while a kweelyo would pass by us, moving like a thing of life ; drawing near, edging off, rising and sinking, perfectly at the will of the guide. Some of them, I thought, were fantastical, in representing monster birds ; but all were beautiful. Another boolyo appeared, which we approached. I looked back ; the other was not in-sight : this was covered with a white polished metal, like silver, and of precisely the same form as the first. We passed

close by the top of the spire. Many people were to be seen below, and some were at the top of the shaft, apparently on the watch ; and in the globe might be seen some dozen others. The globe was about fifty feet diameter, and looked like glass. There were four doors that opened out upon a balustrade. My friend in blue made some motions with a black stick, a black ball at the end ; which motions seemed to be understood by those on the balustrade, as answers were made in return with a similar instrument. We continued our course ; and during the whole time scarcely any conversation was held between my two companions, and nothing was addressed to me by either of them, but I observed that a great deal was done by signs and motions of the hands and fingers. I had noticed that on my first arrival. Who my companions were I was ignorant ; but as they were the first to greet me and to take an interest in me, I submitted myself wholly to their guidance ; but whither I was to be transported, I did not know. No one could see my friend in blue, or hear his voice, without at once placing the fullest confidence in him. I was thankful for their forbearance in not addressing me, or drawing my attention from the scenes below, in which I was so much absorbed. Some

towers and tops of temples rising above the horizon in the direction we were going bespoke a city, and one of great magnitude ; for every moment its boundaries extended, until nothing but a dense mass of habitations covered the surface of the globe beneath me. Innumerable air-carriages were hovering over it. I then snuffed salt air, and, shortly after, discovered water in the distance. Could I have made myself understood, I should have asked a thousand questions, for the most singular temples imaginable presented themselves to view in every direction, and some of them of prodigious size ; but I kept silent. When the destined place was reached, the carriage was made to settle down slowly, by giving vent to the gas : the wings were turned up. I noticed that it required some skill to bring the car to alight at a desired spot. All the manœuvres I did not comprehend. Our anchor was lowered in quite a different place from where I supposed it was intended we were to alight. The line was then reeled in, and we came down very gently into an enclosure paved with small, flat stones of various colors, in a fanciful design. At the side opposite the house were arches, in several of which were air and other carriages ; but the house, how shall I describe it!

The architecture was of no style that I had ever before seen : it was indeed a magnificent building, and so perfectly polished, that it seemed to me a pity such a gem should be exposed to the weather.

The moment we touched the pavement, we were surrounded by the family of my friend in blue ; and I saw for the first time a female—a very noble woman—dressed in rich, white stuff. She was the wife of my friend. She stepped forward to meet him as he left the car, her eyes sparkling with pleasure. She greeted him with a voice the sweetest I had ever heard. He took her hands in his, then placed his hand upon her shoulders, and replied to her greeting. Two young girls and three boys presented themselves, and were greeted in the same manner. Several other females came forward. Inquiries respecting me were earnestly made. Doubtless my strange appearance excited their curiosity. I had not attempted to make them understand any thing as to the place whence I came. After my friend had given them an account of his falling in with me, and showing them a sketch of my balloon, which he had taken on a card, we entered the house ; and I heard again a sound, heavy and prolonged, like that which had so startled me at the boolyo. The sun was directly

overhead; and I came to the conclusion that those sounds denoted the time, as I had heard them at night, midnight, morning, and noon. The floors of the passages or entries were of stone like the court. Windows, port-holes, and doors were all open. The air was warm. I judged myself to be very near the equator of the planet. I believed it would always continue as it was then,—soft and agreeable. The family separated, and retired to different apartments. I was led to a room by one of the young men, and left there. The apartment was about forty feet in diameter, and thirty feet high, with a skylight, and one window, which opened into the court. The furniture was composed of a stone table, a broad couch or seat that nearly encircled the room, and a large mirror in a niche. While I was surveying the premises, the young man returned, bringing a suit of clothes, which, by signs, he desired me to put on, laying out the different articles, and showing by his own dress how they should be worn. When he left, I cast off my old seersucker, and other garments, and was soon robed in the costume of the country; and although I had never thought much of dress, I must confess that I felt elated at my appearance in this new attire, and I stood for some time before

the glass. I was admiring myself, when my young friend entered again. I blushed, and he smiled. After adjusting some parts of my dress, he desired me to go with him. From the first moment I saw that lad, I took a liking to him. He was a modest, good-looking youth, apparently about seventeen years of age. I followed him, and met all the family in a large hall or saloon.

CHAPTER V.

My friend in blue, whose name was Colobi, — and I afterwards learned that he was a Boolkeek-youl, or Boolyo inspector, — addressed me, and tried to make me understand ; but all that I could comprehend was, that he intended to take me to some place. He said more than all I had previously heard him utter since my arrival : indeed, these people were very taciturn, and, by their gravity, reminded me of the Turks of our own globe. We proceeded to the street — Colobi, his two eldest sons, and myself — by a gate at the extremity of a beautiful garden. The street extended as far as the eye could reach, and was lined mostly by high walls of stone, from twenty-five to thirty feet in height. The only thing particularly remarkable was the perfect cleanliness of the street : had there been a gale of wind, not a particle of dust would have risen. Vehicles of various descriptions were rolling along, propelled by invisible

power. I looked for horses, cattle, dogs, or any of the brute creation, but could see none.

My young companions became quite communicative : they gave me the names of every thing we passed ; *yo* was applied to all houses and carriages. I thought that by a little application I should speedily acquire the language, and I determined to set about it. We had walked a quarter of a mile, when we turned a corner of the street ; and the sight that burst upon my view drew from me exclamations of surprise and admiration. A temple towering into the heavens, glittering as though covered with diamonds, stood at the extremity of that incomparable avenue, the buildings on either side of which were of the same sparkling hue : my companions, noticing my surprise, pointed to the temple, and said, "*Loyo*," which I afterwards learned to be a temple to preserve the memory of those who had benefited the world. As we approached, I found it to be in the centre of a circus ; and the street extended beyond, and another large and magnificent street crossed at right angles. All the buildings in the circus were of the most gorgeous description : the material appeared to be blocks of crystal richly cut, and of all the shades of the rainbow ; but the great *Loyo* was wholly of the

clearest crystal. It was circular ; and I judged it to be about five hundred feet in diameter at the base, and one thousand feet to the top of the dome.

It seemed to me like carnival time in Italy, the people were all so gayly dressed : some were riding in very curious vehicles, which were running along and dodging about, as if endowed with life, and almost all of them representing some animal, beautiful and monstrous ; and their movements were noiseless as phantoms. Those in the carriages conversed with the promenaders by their fingers. The walks were protected by balustrades, with openings at intervals.

We entered a building, and ascended a flight of steps of blue stone, almost transparent. Opposite the flight was a door, which we entered, and proceeded along a corridor until we came to an apartment of a circular form, filled with men. A large table stood in the centre : there were inkstands and other writing materials. Soon after we entered, my friend Colobi addressed the company ; and his speech was listened to with the utmost attention. To me, it was music : there was a peculiarity in the sound that letters cannot express. I was not long in discovering that the subject of

the discourse was myself. A drawing of my balloon was exhibited, and I was led forward to be examined. I was addressed in different languages, I supposed, and by different individuals, but all to no purpose. They then presented a chart, or map, of the globe, and directed me to point out the spot whence I came. The place where we were was marked out to me; and, as I had supposed, we were very near the equator. I observed two great oceans running parallel to each other, nearly if not quite round the globe: the equator was on the land. I was much interested in the study of the map, and forgot my orders until reminded to point out the place whence I came. I shook my head, and after a while made them understand that I came from no part of that globe. Then I made a drawing of the solar system, with the several planets, and pointed out the earth with one moon, as the place I came from. They expressed astonishment and incredulity. One of them brought a beautiful picture of the earth, with the moon, for my inspection. I tried to assure them that I came from that planet, but without success; they seemed, however, to take an interest in me, and much conversation ensued. As we departed, all eyes were turned upon me, and I felt that I was considered

by them an impostor. On our return we took another course, and passed a dol, or kweylo dol, — a place for the alighting of air-carriages : it was an enclosure of about five hundred yards diameter, of a circular form, and surrounded by a single rail of white metal, like silver. There were some two or three hundred carriages in the dol : some were starting off, and others were arriving. The scene presented was one of the most interesting I had yet beheld. I was almost dragged from the spot. As the party was in a hurry to reach some other place, I moved along, with the consolation that I should have a rich treat another time at the dol. We soon came to a covered gallery of a magnificent description, thronged with people. The extent of the building I could not then determine: it was indeed gorgeous to behold. I was surprised. The floor was of beautiful mosaic work ; and from the great number of men, women, and children, I imagined some festival was being celebrated. The females were beautifully dressed ; some of them were seated about in groups with the men, and others were promenading : the whole had the appearance of a continuous ballroom. We walked some distance, my friend recognizing many individuals ; to some of them he spoke of me. Shortly

we met the family of my friend ; after conversing a little, we departed. At the same time I observed the whole mass began to leave. We walked directly home, and reached the house just at the moment the sun set ; for the tremendous bell, or whatever it might be, sounded, and in a few minutes sunshine changed to moonshine. I had been in such a state of constant excitement, that a dinner had not occurred to my mind until that moment, when I felt the craving of hunger. I looked into several of the rooms as we passed along the hall, to see what preparation had been made, but I saw nothing that gave me any satisfaction. My young companion, however, soon took me to a room where was spread a variety of delicious fruits : after partaking, we walked into the garden. The heavens were beautifully clear : there were two moons overhead, one twice the size of the other ; and a third was about twenty degrees above the horizon, larger than the other two, and very much larger than the moon belonging to the earth. These three moons made the night brilliant as day, almost. My young companion kept close by me, giving me the names of every thing that attracted my notice. I saw it was the intention to teach me their language, and that this young man was bent

upon acquiring mine ; for he required, in return for every name he gave, the English name, which was carefully noted down in a book by him. I was so abstracted, that I recollected but little of what he told me of the names ; and, being drowsy, I returned to my room, and threw myself upon a couch and fell asleep, and slept soundly too, until sunrise. Colobi brought his son to me that morning, and gave me to understand that he was to be my companion, and that he should learn my language, and I learn his ; and, saying many things to young Colobay, — for that was his name, — he left us, and went off in a kweelyo on a long journey. Colobay was infinitely more apt than I ; for he remembered, and could pronounce perfectly well, every word I had given him the evening before, while I could scarcely bring one of his to mind. I was kept at work by him without intermission ; I was never so plied in my life. I thought he had determined to acquire the English tongue in a day. I was glad when the moonlight came again. Fruit was our meal as before. The people lived upon fruit, which was taken at night. In the morning they drink a sweet, fragrant sirup. A sap or gum from some tree, diluted with water, is carried into every sleeping apartment, as also water, by pipes.

Another day passed with constant application of teacher and pupil ; but the extraordinary progress of the young man gave me the consolation that the task would soon be over. The next day Colobi returned ; and all the family started for the Coodjee, — a place for public worship, as Colobay gave me to understand. I was rejoiced to go out again ; for I had been treated like a prisoner, though doubtless, for my own good. There was a general turnout of the whole population. I was curious to witness the rites at the Coodjee. On arriving there, an immense concourse had already assembled. In a vast open space surrounded by magnificent buildings of crystal, was the Coodjee, being a series of circles, or steps, one rising above another about six inches, and each circle, or step, about four feet wide. There were about a hundred of the circles of equal width, then a space of about twenty feet, when a farther series of five circles arose, the top one forming a platform, or pedestal, for the speakers. The diameter of the platform was about twenty-five feet. From every direction were passages, like the spokes of a wheel, leading to the centre, — the whole built of pure white stone, like porcelain, more beautiful than polished marble. Colobi, with his wife, left us and passed on

towards the centre. Colobay and I left the younger members near the outer circle, and took a position ourselves farther up. I saw some very old people pass up towards the centre. Nothing but heads were visible, and the buildings that bordered the Coodjee, and not a whisper heard—all was silence—when the great bell sounded, and a chant by the whole assemblage was commenced, lightly murmured at first, and gradually increased to a loud, high pitch, and of about two minutes' duration. Then a single voice, like a trumpet, from the centre, pierced my ears and startled me. At the first blast I supposed it a trumpet; but the perfect articulations that followed convinced me it was a voice.

I beheld a very aged man standing alone upon the highest point, leaning upon a bar, and, from some gesticulations, I concluded him to be the speaker. I was, however, partly mistaken. The old man was the soul of a speaking-machine, which latter it was that sent forth his speech in such powerful strains. The machine was acted upon by springs connected with the bar upon which the old man leaned: the voice came from a pipe rising from the centre of the stand, with a large circular plate of metal over it, presenting, from my station,

the form of a large flat umbrella. The speech continued about three minutes, and might have been heard distinctly a mile. Another chant followed, the same as at first, when the bell sounded again, and the people dispersed. The time occupied in these services did not exceed ten minutes. Three moons were visible at the time, in a particular position with respect to each other. As often as that happens, that ceremony takes place; and, when all four moons are visible in particular positions, the ceremony is much greater. I learned that the oldest man present always officiated at the religious festivals; and, whenever the people were called to the Coodjee, they would take their stations according to their ages, — the oldest nearest the centre, — each circle having some designating mark; and the people all knew their appropriate places. The oldest were, in fact, the priests, engaged in whatever profession: there was no other priesthood. I observed, while at the Coodjee, that the greatest deference and respect were paid to age; and subsequently I noticed a prevailing ambition or desire to become old among all classes.

Colobay and myself remained at the outer circle until all had retired; and it was astonishing to witness the order and despatch with which the popu-

lace departed. The Coodjee, when vacated, presented of itself a magnificent spectacle. More than a hundred thousand persons could be accommodated upon it. The street encircling it was at the least three hundred feet broad, paved, like the hall of a palace, in mosaic. I wished to go to the platform at the centre, in order to inspect more particularly the place, and to have a view from that eminence ; but, as Colobay declined, I supposed it was against the rules.

We then stepped into a preelyo (a carriage propelled by machinery), and rode off very rapidly. I could not but feel the contrast the whole scene presented, compared with its appearance on my first approach, when covered with myriads of beings.

The strangeness of the ceremony, the shortness of its duration, and the profound silence observed by the multitude, made an impression upon me that I can never forget. It was like a vivid dream.

I was still musing upon it, when my attention was awakened by the sight of water. We were, at the time, upon a winding road, which afforded us a glimpse of an enchanting view of numerous islands, some clothed with verdure, others covered with massive edifices ; while vessels of beautiful figures were plying in every direction, without a sail, or the

least apparent cause of motion. One of them represented a water-bird, like a swan, of colossal proportions. We soon reached the quay, where I enjoyed the scene in all its beauty. I scarcely know where or how to begin a description of the objects that were before me. Several vessels were receiving passengers for the neighboring islands; and at a given signal they would move off like fishes. Others, coming in, would back, and range ahead, and move sideways, and accommodate themselves so gently to the quay, as to astonish me. Each vessel represented some animal. The enormous swan I had noticed at first was bound on a distant voyage, as Colobay informed me. It was still visible, appearing on the horizon like an iceberg. A number of small craft were playing about, with one or two young persons in each, that attracted my attention from the great glee of the youngsters: they were amusing themselves with fishes harnessed to their boats. It was curious to see how perfectly well trained they were. One of the teams coming alongside of the quay, gave me a chance to observe the manner of the harness, and how it was fitted. The fish was of the porpoise kind, that inhale the air, and have warm blood. This was larger than a common-sized porpoise. It

was about ten or twelve feet in length, and had a loose metal framework round its body. The shafts of the boat were connected to the centre of the keel, on the bottom. The fish was fastened in the same way that a horse would be fastened to a cart, — by rings attached to the front band of the frame, and slipped over the ends of the shafts, and pinned. Three lines led aboard, having goads at the ends, — one of them at the tail, and two at the head. By pulling the first the fish would shoot ahead: the two latter served to turn it to the right or left. These fishes were very numerous, and easily caught, and as easily trained. Indeed, they required no training; for they all behaved well in harness at the first trial. The method of taking them was, by enticing them into locks baited; then to drain off the water, tackle them to boats, and let the water in again and drive off. Occasionally the fish would attempt to dive, but the buoyancy of the boat prevented his going only his length underneath. These attempts caused the greatest sport. The fishes were unharnessed in a moment by opening the collar; when they would dart off, leap into the air, and plunge into the water many times in quick succession.

Colobay was as much amused as I with the

sport: he told me that the ancient people used these fishes altogether in carrying on their coasting business. The quay was a fine piece of stonework, with a covered walk, and extended I could not tell how far: we rode along for several miles amidst scenes of gayety. Carriages were passing with extreme swiftness: they were filled with people. At length we turned off near the outskirts of the city, and came to a range of immense workshops: there were piles of huge blocks of crystal of different colors and shapes, ready for use; there were furnaces in the rear, at distances of a quarter to half a mile, upon a hillside, where the materials were obtained for the crystal. I was desirous of inspecting these works, and prevailed upon Colobay to alight, and walk with me to the nearest furnace. The furnace was movable, and stood upon rollers; and there were moulds, also upon rollers, which, passing under the furnace, received the fluid composition. The moulds, in a continuous line, passed on to the cooling-rooms, where they were separated. The blocks were drenched and tempered in a prepared liquid in a very short time; then they were passed through the grinding-rooms, where the surfaces were made smooth, or cut to any desired pattern, then polished; and finally they reached

the inspector's room, where they were assorted and placed accordingly. The whole process was accomplished in an incredibly short period of time. We followed a block from the furnace, where it commenced in a liquid state, and saw it passed out of the inspector's room ready for use. These crystal blocks were of many degrees of quality, and made the most showy edifices to eyes unaccustomed like mine; but I was informed that many kinds of stone were more highly prized for building purposes.

We resumed our places in the preelyo, and continued our ride through the manufacturing district, which was of such extent and magnitude, that I did not attempt to investigate so particularly any other factory as that of the crystal-furnaces. Onward we passed with flying speed, through almost endless streets of mountain buildings, from some of which rose huge pipes, or chimneys, towering into the air, jetting forth clouds of steam and smoke; and from some came the rattling and noise of ponderous machinery; while, from all, the busy movements of the people gave evidence of unwearied industry.

From this district we ascended an eminence, and rode along through a plain where were exquisitely beautiful gardens, with trees of enormous size,

with leaves I should say of twenty feet diameter, and fruit the size of a bushel-basket. There were also many brilliant flowers in full bloom. From this eminence, along the borders, we could overlook the city in every direction to the horizon. Four boolyos were visible; and near by stood the majestic Loyo, towering above every building, and which, reflecting the sun's rays, dazzled the eyes to behold. The sea, studded with islands, was seen in one quarter; and a gorgeous sunset made the whole scene truly magnificent. We hastened home, and night was upon us.

CHAPTER VI.

THE next morning Colobay took me to the place I had previously visited, and which I had so much admired, — the covered gallery. It was called the Tootroolyo : it was like a belt, encircling a portion of the city, as I was informed ; for it was many miles in extent. I never passed through the whole of it.

The Tootroolyo was used for all social purposes : it was an exchange for all classes of people, a depository for specimens of the mechanic arts. Libraries, large and numerous, were interspersed ; the whole being open at all times for the use of the public. At the point where we entered, commenced a series of large and exquisite paintings on the walls. They were historical, I supposed, as one figure was very conspicuous in many of them. Colobay gave me to understand this was Churligulisk, one of their ancient worthies, and pointed out to me some other distinguished characters.

I suppose I might have gleaned a history of the country I was in from these paintings ; but so many novelties were continually presenting themselves, that I could not dwell long upon them. There was a pleasing variety in the style of the architecture of the gallery, each part being made to accord exceedingly well with the objects for which it was used. We came to a library ; and on each side were several halls, in which were people reading and examining books. Then a hum of voices in the distance was heard, and we soon came into a large assemblage of people, — halls on either side, filled with groups of men and women conversing with much animation. We passed on through many collections of specimens of the mechanic arts : among them were specimens of the kweelyo. There I had an opportunity of observing the improvements made, from the primitive balloon down to the perfect flying-machine. The earliest specimens were shaped like a half-sphere, the circular bottom being of wood, and strengthened by a metal frame-work, under which was suspended the car by cords. The first improvement was in fixing the car by metal rods. Then various methods of gathering in the cap or bag when the gas was let off, which at first was done by cords pulled in by

the occupants of the car. Afterwards the cap was made to contract of itself by elastic straps; then the head and tail were added; and finally the wings were applied, which allowed the machine to scale along with such prodigious velocity. The shape of the modern machines was a little elongated or oval. The large, flat bottom to which the cap was affixed acted as a parachute, and would secure an easy descent in case of the rupture of the gas-cap.

Reluctantly leaving these objects, we entered one of the side halls, whither we were attracted by the sounds of music; and there we saw a large number of musical instruments. A person was playing upon the largest,—an organ I should call it,—which stood in the centre of the hall. Its form was cylindrical, about twelve feet in diameter, and twenty-five feet high. The top was a cone: from the apex rose a large trumpet-shaped tube, articulated, and made to turn in every direction by pedals. No pipes were visible. The performer sat before a key-table, with several ranges of keys, and played in the same manner as I had seen organists in England perform. There were many pedals for the feet, and some three or four to be pressed by the knees. The tones were touchingly sweet,—now thrown down upon us with overwhelming force;

then, at the pleasure of the performer, by means of the tube, seeming to wander off, and die away among the echoes themselves; now dancing in the most fantastic movement in the dome, then playing about in all directions, giving a startling and supernatural effect. In another portion of the gallery were geographical maps and charts of the world. Upon an immense map of the globe, Colburn pointed out to me our position, which I judge to be about ten degrees north latitude. A line encircled the entire globe at the equator, extending to about twenty degrees on either side, north and south. There were, however, some deep cuts cutting in almost to the equatorial line. There were two great oceans, extending from seventy to seventy degrees of latitude, completely encircling the globe. At the poles was land, extending to seventy degrees; and some points reaching almost to the belt of the equator, leaving only narrow straits; and there were many groups of islands. There were portions of the globe drawn on a much larger scale, and beautifully painted, giving a natural appearance to every object. In an adjoining hall, the walls were covered with astronomical figures: amongst them I observed the plan of the solar system, and separate

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drawings of the planets. That of the earth had pretty correct outlines of the great continents. There were also a variety of mathematical and astronomical instruments. The rooms devoted to social intercourse were exceedingly magnificent, and were placed at intervals throughout the whole Tootroolyo. There were portions specially allotted to each particular profession, trade, or craft, for the exhibition of its novelties, and for the assemblage of its professors; yet every part was free alike to all. The utmost order was observed. During that visit I saw a great many surpassingly beautiful women; and the sweet music of their voices still vibrates in my ears. The costumes of the females varied but little from that of the males, both wearing very loose pantaloons; those of the males being gathered in from the knee down to the ankle, to fit the shape, and fastened by ornamental clasps; while those of the females continued loose to the ankle, where they were gathered in to a band. The day being nearly spent, we left the Tootroolyo, and, on our way home, wandered through several beautiful streets of princely dwellings, and several gardens. The soft and fragrant atmosphere, and the golden sky, imparted the effect of enchantment.

As we approached the magnificent Loyo, I ex-

pressed a wish to Colobay to enter it ; and he intimated that on the following day we should do so. At home our repast was, as usual, of fruit. Before retiring to rest, I generally passed an hour in the garden, gazing at the moons and stars, thinking of my far distant home. Colobay pointed out to me the earth, — a pretty, bright-looking star. I gazed at it until the last glimmer was lost in the mist of the horizon. Was it possible that I should ever return to it, and behold my native land, and be greeted by my friends, now so distant, so very distant? I felt impressed with the certainty that I should again reach home.

Next morning Colobay and myself started off to visit the Loyo. That building stood upon a slight eminence, nearly in the centre of the city. Its height was great, rendering it a conspicuous object for a distance of many miles. On the outside was a flight of steps, which we ascended ; and, entering a grand vestibule, I was led directly to the centre of the floor, where I had a glance of the entire interior. I will not attempt to describe the effect of this view ; but it can easily be imagined that the scene was exceedingly grand, the diameter of the interior being more than three hundred feet (the exterior diameter being five hundred feet) ; the height inside over ten hundred feet !

The Loyo seemed to be a monument for every one who had lived from the creation of the world ; also a chronicle of every event that had occurred. And indeed it was so ; at least, in so far as that particular city or country was concerned. I was told that every city had a Loyo and a Tootroolyo. The whole interior of that Loyo was of the purest white. A flight of steps at one side led to the commencement of a spiral gallery, which continued its way to the very top of the dome. On the lower floor, and over some of the entrances (which were very numerous), were inscriptions in large characters, giving particulars of the dedication, and the commencement of the building of the temple, as Colobay explained to me. After taking a general survey, we ascended to the gallery, which was some sixty feet wide, and level for about a hundred and fifty feet, and then an ascent of three steps ; then another level to the same extent ; then three more steps ; and so on to the top. The height between the ranges of gallery was about forty feet ; and I counted twenty-six circuits. Each part supported the other by pillars of white metal, large at the lower floor, diminishing in size gradually in every succeeding gallery. On the walls were inscriptions and writings in white metal, continuing for several

circuits ; then we came to the first statue, a dignified figure with a very mild face, which I recognized as Churligulisk. From that upward, the statues increased in number : among them I notice several of females. Onward we passed, round and round. To me the walls became monotonous ; but, from the earnest observation bestowed upon them by the many people present, I concluded they contained matter of deep interest to those who comprehended the characters. There were several outlets to galleries on the exterior ; passing all of which by, we arrived at the summit, when, issuing forth, we beheld the immense city of Uctiushillibactule at our feet. I had had a bird's-eye glimpse of that city when floating in the kweelyo of Colobi on my first arrival : now I could take a fair observation of it. The endless Tootroolyo conspicuously wound its way, in crossing and spanning many streets by arches. A short distance from the Loyo lay the chaste and beautiful Coodjee, which appeared like a star, covering a large space of ground ; while, at greater distances, I noticed several others partly hidden by the buildings. Then, gleaming in the sun, I beheld the placid water dotted with islands, and many vessels moving this and that way without a breath of wind,

every object being distinctly reflected, as if in a mirror. Many wide and noble streets radiated in every direction from the Loyo, and were lost in the distance. Towers and domes raised their crests in all quarters.

A kweelyo dol near by was not the least interesting object in view : aerial carriages were flitting about, some of them very much higher than the dome of the Loyo. The streets were occupied by the usual busy multitude : the people from this height appeared like small specks, and the carriages like insects moving along. Here and there were extensive and beautiful gardens. The roofs of more than half of the buildings being laid out in that way, the whole scene so riveted me to the spot, that I was not at all sensible of the length of time spent there, until Colobay intimated that we must leave ; and, entering to descend, I noticed that the cap of the dome was entirely of metal, having stanchions from a broad rim running into circular holes in the walls. Colobay explained to me that by means of screws this cap was raised, and the walls were carried up periodically, but at long intervals. From the massiveness of the present work, I thought it might, in process of time, be elevated to double or treble its present altitude, or

even higher. A stupendous work indeed! We descended to the street; and after walking round the building, and loitering at a dol, we returned home. My time passed in this manner for a long while. On two several occasions I was taken to the place where I had been examined, on my first arrival, and was again interrogated, more particularly than before, and by a larger number of people. Through Colobay I answered all the questions relating to myself, and the earth whence I came. And I underwent a physiological examination: some of those doctors, as I called them, had full faith in my story, and a few evidently were incredulous.

One day Colobay, who was my constant companion, took me a long distance in a kweelyo. We started from the yard, and rose perpendicularly to a great height, when, by depressing the bow a little, and letting off the gas, or condensing it, we shot ahead with velocity, scaling along with scarcely an effort. Passing over the water, I saw a great many water-craft, but not one with a sail: indeed, a sail would have been of but little use; for not a breath of wind had stirred since my arrival in the country, although, while scaling along in the air, one would think a gale of wind was blowing.

Colobay informed me that they seldom had wind of any strength in that part of the world ; but in the distant countries of the north and the south there was plenty of it. Moreover, he told me that the inhabitants of those distant regions eat fishes of the sea and birds of the air ; and that, in ancient times, these people used the wind to blow along their vessels. " Now," he said, " that method had been superseded everywhere by the propelling power which was then used by vessels on the water, carriages in the streets, those aerial carriages, and for machinery, and for almost every purpose where power was required."

Colobay had acquired so much of my language as to be able to understand any thing I had to communicate to him ; and he could make himself understood very well by me in common matters. I ascertained from him that the people all believed in a supreme Being, a Creator of all things, as we do, and in the immortality of the soul. I asked whether the Lord from heaven ever came down and made revelations in regard to futurity, and set an example for the world to follow, then died for it. Colobay said, no ; but that " Alrojule " had been taken into the celestial abodes, there enlightened, and then returned to the world to make

known the divine laws. There were many like the commandments in our Holy Scriptures. The sum of them was, to be honest, to do good to every one, and to improve one's self: a violation of these would bring punishment. There was great work in the future for every being. Every thing transpiring in the world is recorded, every word or sound vibrates perpetually, every scene floats forever; so that a departed spirit may read his own life in the world from his birth, witnessing every action, hearing every utterance, and knowing every thought, and not only of himself, but of all others; and trace his ancestry to any remote period, witnessing every thing that ever occurred in their lives, passing precisely as it happened, — being the actual scenes going on like the wave of the ocean, ever to be perpetuated. All secrets are thus unveiled, all mysteries are cleared. Then murders, thefts, lies, cheatings, and all crimes, are brought clear to the gaze of every one. How dreadful the exposure of villainies of every hue! To the criminals, what greater punishment than the thought that their misdeeds are patent to every one who chooses to look and to hear, from which there is no escape. As I heard all this, I thought, if it be true for us of the earth also, how many of our

people would open their eyes aghast in the world to come, to find their deceptions, little malpractices, falsehoods, not to say greater crimes, which they supposed would be ever buried in oblivion, staring them in the face, with the eyes of the injured ones sadly fixed upon them! Colobay proceeded to say that all the people were good: everybody dreaded to do any thing bad,—they knew the consequences. Before the revelation through “Alrojule,” people were bad: now all is changed. Every one knows that he is to become a ruler, and to create a world of his own in a future time, if he becomes worthy and competent. This belief was delightful indeed; and all these people lived in that faith, and that the divine Being was all goodness and love. He further said, that all people were respected alike, the highest and the lowest; for, in the future world, the first here might be the last, and the last first, by reason of the accumulated wisdom acquired in previous existences, which would come to them upon entering the future state. There they would be balanced by the aggregate of their virtues and acquirements: consequently the great in this world might have little or nothing good in store to add to their gains in this; while the poorer may have riches laid up, that would place them first there.

Another kweelyo joined us, and we glided along beautifully together, keeping up a brisk conversation for some time, when we parted. We continued on until we reached a boolyo : many people were about the grounds, but, without stopping, we played about a while, and returned home.

One evening, while in the garden, as usual, watching for a glimpse of the earth, the stars all shining particularly bright, no moon being above the horizon, and revolving in my mind the thought of getting off from that planet, a thought which had begun almost constantly to occupy my mind, Colobay came to the gate with a large preelyo, and called me out ; and, with the whole family, we embarked, and rode off through various streets, which were brilliantly lighted, and thronged with people, the whole population seeming to be on the move. I anticipated something, but what, I could not imagine. The air was soft and fragrant, and the ride of itself was delightful : when, at midnight, the great bells sounded, every building was lighted up as if by magic, in a perfect sheet of blaze ; the Loyo was completely enveloped in flame. Amidst the glare of light we rode through several streets, the whole presenting one of the grandest spectacles imaginable. The peculiar position of the

moons was the occasion of the festival. The illumination continued for about the space of an hour, and a deeper darkness than ever came upon us just as we arrived home.

I was restless all that night, and did not sleep a moment, for I was making up my mind to divulge to the family my determination of leaving them; and I was afraid of opposition on their part, for I had no idea of what their intentions were respecting me: however, I resolved to get away if possible. In the morning I took Colobay into the garden, and imparted to him my intention of going back to my own planet. The poor fellow was quite troubled at this information, and besought me with tears not to attempt such a thing; for really he had become very much attached to me, and I did not doubt he would feel more keenly my departure than any other person. He pleaded that I could go back to the earth again in my soul if I chose; but my mind was made up. I must confess that I was a little mortified to find that all the rest of the family so readily acceded to my wishes. Colobi himself made no objection to my going, and was so ready to forward my desires, that any one less acquainted with his character than I had become, would have supposed he was anxious to get rid of

me ; but I, who knew him so well, attributed it to his perfect goodness. He offered me a handsome kweelyo, all equipped for any voyage ; but I did not feel able to manage the complicated machinery of the kweelyo sufficiently well to undertake a voyage alone in one. I was obliged to decline the gift, although fully appreciating his kindness.

CHAPTER VII.

AFTER ascertaining myself to be my own master, at liberty to depart at my own pleasure, I felt some reluctance at taking the step I had purposed, but was ashamed to retreat from it; so I allowed all the necessary preparations to be made for my departure. My balloon and apparatus were brought from the boolyo to the yard of Colobi, where it underwent a thorough overhauling. In addition to my stock of gas-powder, Colobi furnished me with a quantity of the liquids used in obtaining gas for the kweelyo. I found it far superior to my powders. It was packed in transparent bottles. When used, a portion of one kind was poured into a pan, and then a portion of the other kind was poured upon it; then an effervescence would take place, and an immense volume of gas be immediately evolved. Should the portions of each not be just, then the surplus of the greater portion would remain in the pan uninjured, and would be ready

for future use ; or it could be returned to the bottle from which it had been taken. My ancient wardrobe was packed up, besides several rich and splendid suits of clothes which had been presented to me by Colobay ; and many other beautiful things, also presented by Colobay and his family. All were ready for embarkation, and nicely stowed in the car. After taking an affectionate leave of Colobi and his family, I stepped into the car, almost overcome by my feelings. My balloon, to these people, must have appeared exceedingly rude ; for, indeed, it was very far behind the earliest specimens I had seen at the Tootroolyo. Notwithstanding the deep sorrow which was melting my heart at that moment, I could not repress a laugh at the ludicrous scene I imagined myself and balloon must have presented to my friends.

The inflation was the work of but a moment ; and gradually I floated upward, passing very slowly over the city. Several flying-machines flitted by me almost like lightning, showing movements like life ; while my balloon moved majestically along, insensible to government, except to rise and fall. I dreaded to ascend into the upper regions out of the atmosphere, so I drifted along during the whole day at a low altitude. Just before sundown I

threw out some ballast, when I ascended with great velocity. I wished to make the transition as momentary as possible, and for that purpose I added more gas, and threw out the remainder of the ballast. The balloon passed toward the east, being in a current of air. I could perceive more distinctly than before the objects below. I passed over an immense dockyard, where were many vessels on the stocks in the process of building, and many others afloat. I thought for a moment that my balloon was falling rather than rising. The idea of again landing was mortifying to my pride. A cold sweat came over me at the thought. I determined to get off if possible. More gas sent the balloon flying upward: objects below lost their distinctness; the balloon expanded, and the gas gushed out at the muzzle. I began to feel that peculiar sensation which I had before experienced, and I laughed outright with joy. I fell backward, and became insensible.

I cannot tell how long I remained in that state, but, upon the recovery of my senses, I continued perfectly quiet, enrapt with exquisite pleasure; and, as the balloon twirled about from time to time, the majestic planet I had just quitted would be brought before my eyes. Conscious of security, I

did not experience that excitement which kept me constantly upon the alert during my first flight; and time passed on, how fast I did not know. It was all day, and no changes. The sun was visible, and also the planet and its satellites. These latter were perceptibly receding. I devised no way of noting time, and had no idea of the amount consumed, neither did I desire to know: it would have been to me a tedious task. But, as it was, the constant expectation of something new coming to pass relieved this flight of any tediousness. After putting the balloon in order, and making all secure, I kept quiet, and gave my mind up wholly to reflections on the past and the probable future. I regretted then that I had not made myself more acquainted with the people amongst whom I had been so long. Of one thing I was satisfied,—that, in point of intellect, knowledge, civilization, and religion, they were very far in advance of the people of our world. They all agreed in one faith. I did not observe that there were days set apart at regular intervals for worship and thanksgiving, like our sabbaths; but they had appointed times, and very often, for worship, fixed by astronomical occurrences. They believed that the spirit, after its departure from the body, had free action, and

could witness past and present transactions on the planets of the solar system. I believe they had a more perfect knowledge of the future state than we have in our world. Death had no terrors for them, beyond the imaginary pangs of dissolution. I never witnessed a funeral ceremony, and do not know what became of the dead. I saw no soldiers; but I believe they had implements of war, and engines of terrific destruction. I saw nothing of the government, nor any thing to indicate what the government was. Colobi was a Boolkeekyoul,—the only officer I had known as an officer: he wore no distinguishing mark.

The planet was fast fading from sight: it barely shone like a star at noonday. I fixed my gaze upon it, and ejaculated, but without a sound, "Oh, farewell, mighty globe! farewell, city most magnificent! farewell to the Tootroolyo, the Coodjee, and the peerless Loyo! and thou, Colobay, dear friend, farewell!" Here my heart seemed to melt within me. Tears gushed forth in great profusion, and I silently wept for some time with a delicious relish. At that moment a singular phenomenon took place. While bathed in tears, I fell very agreeably into a state of unconsciousness. All at once I was aware of standing in my room at Colobi's house

watching Colobay, who was at a window, looking over the leaves of a pocket memorandum-book which I had inadvertently left behind. I was intensely excited to find myself there, and at first thought it a dream. I noticed the marks on the wall where I had scored the time, and some other things, to convince myself of my wakefulness. I also looked over the book, and I saw my well-remembered memoranda. At length I put my hand on Colobay's shoulder. He started, and made a short exclamation, put down the book, and retired from the room. Then of myself: where am I? flashed upon my mind; and as quick as thought I was in company with my balloon. There lay my poor, corpse-like body, entangled in the gear of the machine. Horrified, I rushed to re-animate it, and I came to myself. This mysterious circumstance has haunted my mind ever since; for I am certain that there had been a complete separation of body and soul, and a re-union.

Reflections on the past were very agreeable; and I revolved in my mind over and over again every circumstance that had transpired, from my landing on that globe until my departure from it. I thought, that, if it were possible, I would visit it again. Onward I sped, with my mind absorbed with these

matters, when I noticed that the sun had much increased in magnitude, and that the star had become invisible. This awakened a new train of thoughts, and I looked about to ascertain what adventure next awaited me. I gazed intently into every quarter of the heavens to find some mark from which to estimate my course, and at last discovered a very pale star not far distant from the sun. I flattered myself that it was the earth, and the thought of home sent a thrill through my nerves ; but it was of short duration, for I soon perceived the star to be some other than the earth by the absence of the satellite. The star had become as large as the earth's moon, when it touched the sun, and gradually passed upon his face, eclipsing him totally. Once more I had a glorious view of the heavenly bodies ; how welcome, none can tell, save those who have been deprived of sight for a tedious period. I gazed upon and studied them, and counted them, and my pleasure was without bounds. The well-known stars began to fade as the bright sun emerged, and soon they wholly disappeared. A bright edge after a while appeared on the side of the planet next the sun, but the greater portion continued dark. I was fast approaching that planet, I knew, by the rapid increase

of its size ; and each moment increased the certainty that I was to land there. After I had arranged every thing in order for entering the atmosphere, I quietly awaited the change which I expected to take place, but gazed with intense interest on this to me new globe. I endeavored to discover its nature. Large spots were here and there visible upon its face, some bright and some dark ; but I could make out nothing definitely. I imagined I saw water and land and mountains and valleys ; but, as they changed continually, I concluded the atmosphere and clouds caused the effects I beheld. My excitement increased every moment, and I think I experienced more alarm than when I approached that globe whence I had come. How different would have been my feelings if this had been my own dear native earth I was so rapidly nearing ! With what joy I should have greeted her ! but this was some other world, I knew not what. Slight convulsions now warned me to complete my arrangements ; and, as soon as my balloon had assumed and retained a position perpendicular to the globe, I mixed a small quantity of my liquids, and instantly the balloon expanded plumply, and almost at the same time an agonizing feeling came upon me, and I fell over,

and became insensible. When I recovered myself, I sprang, as though from a dream of awful import, to satisfy myself that all was well ; upon ascertaining there was no danger impending, I sat down, feeble as a child, a profuse and cold perspiration dropping from my brows. This I soon overcame ; and a new excitement inspired me as I inhaled delicious odors, and beheld a beautiful country beneath me, made brilliant by a noonday sun.

What seemed smooth at first soon became rough and ragged, with patches of trees and shrubbery. I hesitated a long time before selecting a spot to descend upon. The nearer I came to terra firma, the more frightful became the scene. Nothing civilized appeared, and I would gladly have departed without touching the soil. But this was not to be, and I resigned myself to fate, and, amidst a wild grove of flowers, I opened the valve with the intent to land ; but not succeeding, I came upon the border of a lake, and dropped a grapnel, which caught amongst some rocks on a point projecting into the lake. Immediately the balloon brought up with a sudden jerk, throwing out all my effects ; and I narrowly escaped being thrown out and dashed to pieces on the rocks myself. I jumped from the car as speedily as possible, and with great difficulty

secured my balloon in a damaged condition. So excited had I been, that I did not at the time observe any living beings near me.

After I had collected my traps in a heap, I sat myself down to rest, and to consider what should be my next step; and, while wiping my brow, I caught sight of a hideous face, peeping over a rock some distance before me: and almost immediately I discovered others, and in such numbers as to strike me with alarm. I jumped up, and seized my gun, when those heads dodged out of sight. I felt greatly encouraged at that, and fired off the old charge in the gun: the report reverberated amongst the rocks; and instantly a shout was set up by those imps as they scampered off in great terror. I soon discovered that I had landed at a plantation; for there were gourds or pumpkins of immense size, six to ten feet in diameter, growing and ripening on the vines, and covering ground to a great extent. At first I mistook these vegetables for bowlders, or rocks. Some being near, I approached one. It had a hole in the side. I put my hand upon it, to look in, when I was startled by cries from two little copper-colored fellows, snugly stowed at the core. That gourd and others were made habitations; and I thought at once to secure

one for myself. I examined several: some were fresh grown, and others were old, being only a shell, hard as horn. One of those I concluded to appropriate for a store-room, and another, pierced with several holes, for my castle. The pulp of the fresh gourds was sweet and palatable, and served as food. Several of the inhabitants of that new country, I observed, were hovering about during the examination of the place; and, watching an opportunity, they seized the two papposes, and ran away with them. My ammunition, bottles, and most valuable articles, I placed in my castle. My balloon and appurtenances I brought to the store-room, and secured a portion of them inside. The remainder I covered with the large leaves that were plenteously at hand.

As the sun came near the horizon, the atmosphere became deliciously soft and mild, and full of fragrance. Birds were singing in the trees. The glittering of the sun on the lake, the misty land beyond, yet not distant, with its foliage reflected, altogether formed a scene that an artist would delight to study. At dusk I retired to my castle, and covered the portal with a leaf. I slept soundly. At waking, gleams of sunlight were piercing through the loop-holes; and outside, flitting about,

were numerous natives. I had no fear of them : leisurely I stepped forth with my gun in hand. The people fled as at first, but not to conceal themselves : they kept at a respectful distance, — a thousand or more of them.

It occurred to me that a charge from my gun fired amongst them, killing and wounding a dozen or more, would impress them with awe, and keep them at a distance in the future ; but, of course, I could do no such thing. Even while the thought was passing my mind, a panic seized the crowd, which rushed aside in consternation ; when a frightful and immense serpent swept along, with a native screeching lustily in its mouth. A horrible sight ! The serpent, forty to fifty feet in length, and as large round as my body, came rushing towards my place, its head raised about six feet above the ground. I pointed my gun, and, firing when it was within twenty feet from me, lodged the contents in its neck about three feet below its mouth. The shock was electric. The serpent sprang into the air and fell, and, after writhing a few minutes, died. The poor native was dropped at first, and scrambled off. The effect of this performance upon the natives was marked.

During the day I wandered about the border of

the lake, and on the rocks, but without losing sight of my castle. Many fish-bones and other bones were scattered about, and, to my great disgust, bones evidently human. This sickening discovery determined me to quit the place at the earliest possible time. The next morning, as I stepped out from my castle, I beheld in the distance masses of people, and near by quantities of eggs, dead birds, fishes, various animals, several human bodies, and as many living infants, and fruits and roots in great quantities. At a little distance, beyond this abundant supply of provisions, sat a female with an infant in her arms. Upon seeing me, she approached a rod or two, left the child with the others, and retired. I made no movement. Shortly she returned, and took the child in her arms, and, after a few moments, left it again ; but, hesitating for a moment, she rushed back, seized it, and fled away. Two fellows, all clad in red feathers, came out from the crowd, and set off in hot pursuit of her. She tried hard to elude them ; and after dodging hither and thither, and finding no escape, she made directly for me, when her pursuers gave up the chase. I had become greatly interested in these manœuvres, and my compassion was excited. I concluded that the child was to be given, upon

compulsion, a sacrifice to me. I was not mistaken. The poor thing, breathless and exhausted, fell to the ground at my feet. She had fainted. I pulled the child from under her: it was bruised, and crying piteously. The female soon recovered, and sprang to her feet, and laid hold upon the child; but finding, after a little while, that it would not be harmed, she became pacified. While she hesitated, and stood trembling and in doubt, I was struck with her beauty of expression, it was so earnest. She was almost wholly enveloped in the long black hair of her head: otherwise she was entirely unclad. I spoke a few soothing words; and she became calm; while tears rolled down from her eyes. Gradually she gathered the child in her arms. I touched her, and parted the hair from her forehead, and looked her in the face. Her fears rapidly vanished, and confidence took their place; and, when I dressed the wounds of the child, her gratitude and joy knew no bounds. She ran round and round me, placing the child in my arms, and taking it again, muttering expressions of delight. The remains of the serpent had entirely disappeared. I learned afterwards that they had been eaten by the people, who entertained the belief that they should thereby become terrible, as the

monster was terrible ; for that reason, savage animals were always eaten by them when obtainable. I gathered a few eggs and some fruit from the mass of stuff provided for my entertainment. The following morning the remainder had disappeared. This female clung to me constantly, seldom losing sight of me for a moment, proving a wakeful guard. I used to amuse myself in plaiting and quilting her tresses, and interlacing them with flowers, and then encircling her with a band, so as to completely clothe her. Seeing that I liked flowers, she kept herself decorated with them ; and I called her "Flora." Walking on the brink of the lake, she would plunge into the water, and astonish me with her power of swimming, — a perfect naiad.

CHAPTER VIII.

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ONE day I clothed her in a robe that had been given me by Colobay : it was of rich stuff, and brilliant. She made a fine appearance. Thus arrayed, she desired to go and exhibit herself in the midst of them. I assented, when she took the child, and we started together. I had put on a showy cloak, and was armed with my gun. The way was through places where I had not before passed, — a city of gourd houses, the people all living in the primitive style. After walking about a mile, we came to a densely populated quarter : there Flora found her mother, who was also the mother of the child, and the child was restored to her. I will not describe the scenes that occurred on the way : there were many that were civilized, and a great many that were uncivilized. A great throng surrounded and followed us. The Gooise, clad in red feathers, numbering about one quarter, lined the way, keeping others back. All bent forward as we

passed along, evidently believing in a visitation of a great envoy from the sun. Intense excitement and curiosity were exhibited. Some of the Gooise took the lead; and we entered a thicket of tall trees, and followed a pathway some eight or ten feet in width for a few rods, then came to a large bower formed of trees, the top branches having been gathered in and confined, making a temple about fifty feet wide and seventy or eighty feet long. The branches and leaves of a great variety of trees were interwoven together, all in a healthy growing condition, making indeed a living temple. The floor was of hard, red soil, cleared of underbrush and all vegetation. That was a temple, where were performed all the rites imposed by the Gooise.

Those rites were of the most horrible character. Human sacrifices were made on all occasions: every family had to contribute a victim when called upon. The capacity and power of the Gooise were without bounds. Every able character secured for himself a position in that corps. Even then, as we entered the temple, preparation had been hastily made for a grand sacrifice in my honor. A great crowd of people had gathered there: a circle of Gooise kept an open space in the centre, where

were eight victims, four males and four females, sitting upon stones, to which they were secured by bandages of rattans. They were young persons. From some commotion, excitement, and cries near the border, I concluded the friends of the victims were there, and in trouble. My heart throbbed as I became aware of what was intended to take place; and I determined to prevent, if possible, any sacrifice of human life.

Flora and I were in the centre of the circle, observed with intense interest by all present. Very soon a hideous, diabolical-looking fellow, followed by eight others, entered the arena, each of the eight holding a shell cup in his hand. Then entered some twenty-five or thirty other men, women, and children, parents and brothers and sisters of the victims: these struggled to suppress their feelings of grief and sorrow; but some of them wailed outright, exciting much sympathy from the crowd, the Gooise all the while endeavoring to hush the sobs, rudely punching the sufferers with their sticks, and otherwise maltreating them.

A dismal humming was then set up by the Gooise, joined in, to some extent, by the crowd. The chief, pacing with measured steps around the victims, brandishing a sharp instrument, led with

a shrill voice the music, which rose to howls and shrieks. A female, one of the mourners, fainted, and fell to the ground, and lay there unnoticed. The service was evidently coming to a crisis: a prolonged scream, joined in by the whole assemblage, sent a thrill through my nerves. Even Flora uttered a cry, and clasped my arm. I grew pale with excitement, and an impulse came over me to shoot that hideous chief. Before I could have accomplished such a deed, he had thrust the instrument he held in his hand into the neck of the male victim nearest me: a stream of blood gushed forth, which was eagerly caught in the shell cups by the followers. The chief seized the first cup, and offered it to me. I dashed it from his hand, and fired my gun at random in the foliage above, when a large, bat-like animal fell wounded directly upon the head of the chief, and clinched its claws into his cheeks: then it flapped about in its agony over the heads and bodies of the people, scratching and biting every one it touched, and creating the greatest alarm and confusion imaginable. The report of the gun, and the appearance of the devil-bat, cleared the place in a very short time. The terror-stricken people fled in every direction, trampling over each other, uttering

frantic shrieks. The Gooise were not behindhand, leaving the victims, Flora, and myself, alone in the temple. The bat escaped with the throng. The jugular vein of the sacrificed one was completely severed, and he was dead. The others I loosened: they exhibited much gratitude, and followed me. The dispersed took themselves to a good distance. As I slowly walked home, Flora by my side, overflowing with expressions of her happiness, and accompanied by these new followers, I reflected upon my situation; and I concluded to pack up and leave the place immediately. Such thoughts inspired me and quickened my steps homeward. As soon as I arrived at my castle, I commenced the work of preparation.

I uncovered my balloon, stretched it out, and examined it thoroughly, finding much mending necessary. My materials were all uninjured. Patching the balloon was the first work. I had noticed elastic and adhesive gum oozing from many trees close by; and I directed Flora, with those new followers, to collect a quantity of it, which they did, and brought me enough to fill a common bucket. I worked for several days with scarcely any intermission, sewing up the rents, and plastering them over with this gum. At last all repairs were com-

pleted, and my balloon and appliances were in perfect order, and in readiness for use. My new followers had taken up their quarters in the nearest gourds that surrounded us. Many Gooise were constantly reconnoitering about us, but at a good distance, none venturing near. The devil at the temple, summoned, as they supposed, by the report of the gun, to punish, still haunted them, and they dared not approach.

A new difficulty now arose. What was to be done with Flora? After consideration, I decided to take her with me. The next morning I had gathered some fruit, some of the gourd, some eggs, and some water, which, together with all my property, I stowed nicely in the car, placing Flora in a comfortable seat. Then I commenced the work of inflation. Scarcely a breath of wind was stirring. The balloon, inflated to its fullest capacity, labored hard to rise, but in vain. I threw out a considerable portion of the ballast, when it ascended perpendicularly. All being right, I slipped the line. My followers ran to and fro in great wonder and excitement. After rising some four or five hundred feet, the balloon struck into a current of air, for the ground and trees below seemed suddenly to slide away to the southward. We were being

drifted northwardly. We passed over hordes of natives, and their gourd villages: the usual proportion of those Gooise, decorated with red feathers, I could see, flitting through the crowds, all shouting, and apparently in a state of great excitement. As we glided along, fresh concourses came into sight, all of about the same character. No indications of a better state of civilization appeared. No patches of cultivated land were to be seen. Occasionally I saw clusters of trees, with the boughs interlaced, doubtless forming temples, such as that I had visited. There were mountains, valleys, lakes, and streams, and vegetation in the greatest luxuriance.

The people were of a very primitive order. Every one aspired to become a Gooise; and when one could procure the necessary red feathers, and wear them, and become valiant enough to protect himself, his right was established. The Gooise were the rulers of the people and the soldiers,—governors in every respect. As soon as a Gooise showed signs of his decay, he was shorn of his feathers, and his power was gone. The strongest was the chief as long as he could maintain himself single-handed in the position. Physical might made right with that people. The arbitrary action

of the Gooise made them feared and hated by the weaker population. Wild animals and reptiles abounded. I saw but few, but marks of them were everywhere to be seen. I frequently heard their barks and roars in the night-time, and even their rustling through the bushes near my habitation. The nights were dark; but glorious auroras were frequently displayed, more gorgeous than I had ever before seen. I never ventured forth in the night. We skimmed along the surface of the globe for the whole day, travelling many hundred miles. Just as I could distinguish the stars, I threw out some ballast, and the balloon rose, I think, a quarter to a third of a mile. I intended to keep at that elevation during the night; but in the morning I was surprised to find ourselves drifting along at no greater altitude than on the previous evening. A vast ocean at a short distance before us appeared. The sun rose in great splendor, looming up to an immense size. The tinge of coloring that lighted up the rocks, and the points of land that bluffly jettted into the sea, and the nearer foliage, were beautiful to behold; while the temperature was soft and mild, and the air exquisitely fragrant. I think I had never been so completely entranced. Flora sniffed the air and

gazed about, evidently filled with wonder and pleasurable emotions. The coast ran along from east to west, and we were sailing along directly to sea. As we passed over an extensive beach, I saw many natives, all intently watching the balloon. I saw some small boats and rafts, but no vessel of any great size, no buildings, nor any thing to indicate civilization. I thought this would be the last I should see of the inhabitants of this planet; but I was mistaken. We passed onward to sea, losing sight of land; then, with considerable dread, but with little reflection, I threw out the remaining ballast, and commenced to make certain preparations; but, observing that the balloon did not ascend as usual, my apprehensions were realized, namely, that the balloon was overladen for my purpose: it was impossible to ascend. My only recourse was to alight again, and part with Flora.

The balloon continued to rush northwardly at a rapid rate throughout the day; and when night came, I passed the whole of it gazing at the stars. The constellations appeared as usual. One remarkably bright star attracted my notice, rising just after sundown from the opposite horizon; and, when some fifteen degrees high, a small star following it became distinctly visible. It was not long

before I concluded that the bright star I looked upon was the earth, and the smaller one was her satellite, the moon. My whole interest was then rapt in that star; and I kept my eyes upon it, until it was dimmed from sight by the approaching sun. Another and several other days passed without signs of land; but during the nights I had that beautiful star in view. Happily the wind was strong from the same quarter as when we started; and the balloon, at an altitude of half a mile, sped along. We were passing over a great ocean. I slept in the daytime, and watched in the night.

One morning, after the fourth or fifth day from the southern shore, we beheld land all along the horizon at the north. This was a welcome sight to me. As we neared the shore, we saw islands and some small vessels and buildings, and signs of civilization. All this was pleasing. I should have dreaded to land again amongst such a barbarous people as those I had just quitted. The weather had moderated, and we were drifting slowly over the land at an elevation of about five hundred feet. I saw people running about in a state of commotion, buildings, cultivated lands, rivers, and lakes; the country generally looking very much like that of our earth. I thought that I should be bet-

ter cared for at the seashore than in the interior, and I determined to descend at the first inviting place. Such a place soon appeared, upon reaching which, I dropped my grapnel, and opened the valve for the gas to escape, and in a very short time came gently to the ground; and instantly we were surrounded by a multitude of men,—white men, but rather brownish or weather-beaten,—all clad with textile fabrics, and with skull-caps more or less ornamented. They touched nothing, but gazed in wonder and amazement, taking me evidently to be a mariner arrived from a distant country in a new style of sailing-ship, fully laden with rare merchandise. Without taking very much notice of them, I gathered in the slack as fast as the gas escaped, without aid from any bystander, thinking myself lucky all the while not to be interfered with. I thought, however, that they must have been somewhat chagrined and disappointed at finding their great expectations thus ending in smoke.

CHAPTER IX.

FLORA, during my work, sat quietly in the car, which had not been disturbed. I took her from it as soon as I had folded the balloon and made it compactly up. She had on the fancy dress I have before mentioned: indeed, she had worn it constantly from the time she was first decorated with it. Undoubtedly she made an impression thus attired; for she was gazed upon by the whole throng with admiration. Soon I began to look about to find what was next to be done, when the crowd, opening, made way for some important character who was approaching. Shortly a man appeared, with a tall cap on his head. He had a massive beard, carried a curious weapon in his hand, and was clad from head to foot in brown cloth with red trimmings. Half a dozen attendants were with him. He came directly to me, speaking a few words, which were all Greek to me. I told him as much. He then pointed me the way, and motioned

me to follow ; but not willing to leave my balloon there exposed to the curiosity of the people, I hesitated. The man understood, and ordered his attendants to take my effects and bring them along, which they carefully did. I had previously taken possession of my gun.

The garb of Flora seemed to excite the most curiosity ; for many would touch and examine it. It would have excited as much curiosity upon the earth even. After walking some distance, we came to a small fortress surrounded by palisades. We entered ; then, through a labyrinth of passages, we reached a central court, where we were presented to a person who was an officer, — a rajah or governor, or some great chief, among this people. He offered me fruit, pastry of sugar, and dried fruits, and water prepared, or the juice of fruits. There were other men, women, and children present, all well clad, the women wearing short loose robes. They wished to see what I had brought, supposing I had articles of merchandise for sale or barter ; but when my balloon was brought in, and they were told it was my ship, they were astonished ; for they had seen the immense flying ship as it passed over their heads and anchored close by, and when they saw the small package it was

made up into, they could not believe that it was the same object. All I possessed was critically examined. Nothing was so much admired as Flora's dress. The men, and women too, were curious to know about the gun I carried. I thought, when an occasion presented, I would show them what it could do. On one side of the court was a two-story building, with a tower rising two stories higher. On two sides of the court, and connected with the central building, were single story-buildings,—a veranda running in front all round the three ranges. Access to the stories was by a ladder through an aperture in the floor, with a trap-door. We were taken through these apartments, up the ladders, through the traps, to the roof of the tower, which was a grand lookout place. It was only about forty feet from the ground ; but from it we had a view of the place for many miles around. This was an extensive city of thatched cottages, much scattered. There were only a few streets where the dwellings were compactly arranged together ; and those appeared to be business-streets. I saw people moving about with packages on their heads, and couples carrying merchandise suspended from a pole resting on their shoulders, just in the same manner as I had seen porters move heavy

parcels in China, and other places on the globe of the earth. We were near the water, — not a half-mile distant. There were many vessels, some at anchor, and some under sail. After a little while we retired down through the scuttle to the apartments below. This portion of the building was occupied by the chief and his wives and family; the chief reserving to himself the two rooms in the tower, the females occupying the second floor, and the males the lower floor. The single-story buildings on the sides were for followers. These buildings were of stout wood frames, well secured together, sheathed with split and hewn boards, having an opening of about three feet high, three feet from the floor, with close sliding shutters. The roofs were thatched with very large and very tough dried leaves. The floors were covered with mats, coarse and heavy. The walls were decorated with ornaments, shells, skins, furs, weapons, and shields.

From the quantity of furs and woollen cloths, I concluded that at some time they must have a cold season, although I saw no chimneys or fire-places in the houses; but in a corner of the court I saw some smoking embers, — the remains of a fire.

Outside there were trees of the ordinary size,

plentifully scattered about, and flowering shrubs, and patches of cultivated land attached to most of the houses. All my communications were by pantomime. I could not make out the meaning of a word they uttered, excepting only the yes and no, which were accompanied by the affirmative or negative shake of the head. On the lower floor, at the right-hand corner, facing the court, was a room which was offered me to sleep in, as I understood. The females had taken possession of Flora, and were disposed to appropriate her to themselves; for she was as much of a curiosity as I was, and perhaps a greater. She was copper-colored, clear, clean complexion, good features, bright, intelligent eyes, and what was the most attractive of all was her splendid head of hair. I never saw any to compare with it in all my wanderings. It was not a jet black; but it had a tinge of brown, and was soft and silky, and so long and profuse that her whole person could be concealed by it. I was glad that she was so much petted.

I made signs to the chief that I should like to walk to the water, and look round about his country. He understood, and he directed his officer to accompany me, — the same person who ushered me to his presence; and we instantly sallied

forth. I led the way very slowly, followed by my guide and his suite. Hosts of people came out to see me, all behaving civilly. I walked through a bazaar, where were mechanics, traders, and others. I saw collections of skins and furs and woollen goods; blankets of very coarse texture, but soft; woollen sacks, wrappers, and other garments; fruits green and dried; fishes of great variety, and shells; fabrics of silk and other fibres; ropes, cord, and twine, and pottery on a large scale; and a great many curious things. I came to the beach, where was a lively scene,—a circular harbor, with the opening to the sea, directly opposite to where I stood. This snug little harbor was one and a half to two miles in diameter. Dwellings, houses, or huts, dotted the shores in all directions. Little piers, or landing-places, from five to ten feet wide, and extending from ten to thirty feet into the water, were very numerous; and to many of them were made fast vessels, one to each; and there were many vessels in the harbor, the largest not over ten tons burden, and from that down to the smallest boat, that could scarcely buoy up the weight of a child.

I saw that these were enterprising people; and, from the stir and activity I witnessed, I wondered

that they had not advanced to something better. Several vessels were arriving into the harbor: as they were under full sail, with a favorable wind, they loomed up, appearing like vessels of two or three hundred tons burden. They used mat sails. On coming to a pier, many would assemble to receive the crew and passengers. Other craft were putting to sea. The voyages performed must have been of short duration. The vessels were too slightly built to stand very rough weather: they were without decks, the cargoes being covered with mats or hides. About a quarter of a mile distant, on the right, a river emptied its waters into the harbor. I walked to the mouth: it was a clear stream, with a beautiful shore on each side. There were fishing-huts scattered along the banks, also on the borders of the harbor, with traps, nets seines, and other fishing-tackle, lying about. Many people came out to look at me, asked questions, and wondered; but none followed except my escort. I turned, and walked about a mile on the other tack; and, after examining the harbor pretty thoroughly, I turned back into the settlement. Bazaars were scattered about here and there, in convenient locations, with every thing that the country furnished for sale, and arranged with some taste.

The better class of dwellings stood separately, most of them surrounded by palisades, or high, close fences, and trees and shrubbery. The poorer class lived in small huts, clustered together: the clusters were numerous. There were foot-paths to the dwellings, — no regular streets. The buildings were all set up without regard to order, bazaars excepted. The general appearance of the country reminded me much of my own land; and sometimes the feeling came over me, that I was walking on the earth. Many faces reminded me of old acquaintances; and I would ask myself seriously if I were actually on another planet. After a long walk, tiring myself and my escort, I returned home, where I found the whole household decorated in choice dresses; even the Ooncroo, or chief, was tastefully costumed. He wore a tight dress, covered with pearl-shells cut to match, the colors so graduated as to form a series of rings on his breast: the whole dress was trimmed in this manner. On his head was a scull-cap with wings, something like the cap of Mercury. The young men were dressed pretty much in the same style, but less rich. The women wore loose robes of various colors, reaching just below the knee, short sleeves caught up on the front of the arm, and a girdle

covered with ornaments of shells around the waist, the hair elaborately arranged, and skewered and trimmed with flowers. Two or three of the girls would pass for beautiful anywhere. All, men and women, wore leggings and sandals over mocassons. Flora was freshened ; and her hair was plaited, with flowers intermingled, after the fashion I had taught her. Seeing all this parade, I thought it incumbent on me to get myself up also. I went to my room, and took a Colobay suit, put it on, and returned in a minute or two to the company. My appearance, so suddenly changed, astonished them. I was surrounded in an instant, and examined from head to foot, the females taking precedence in turning me round ; and there was much laughing, chatting, and hilarity. I laughed and talked too, but never understood a joke. In a little while a large mat was brought, and spread in the middle of the court ; then some dishes of colored pottery, ingeniously ornamented, filled with viands, were placed upon the mat. The whole company of females, with the younger males, proceeded to dance : they formed a ring round us and the dinner, and danced first in a formal manner, then in the liveliest and gayest style possible, perfectly free and easy, enjoying themselves highly. After the

dance, they closed in a circle round the mat, when Ooncroo served those females wearing scarfs with a small dish each ; then I was served, and Ooncroo helped himself ; after that, all turned to *ad libitum*. The stew — a compound of vegetables and flesh, which was plentifully served — was palatable : a little pearl-shell shovel served as a spoon. After this dish, the dinner was completed with fruits, such as I had never before seen : one kind reminded me of, and was somewhat like, the apple At the south, where I first landed, a fruit resembling the plantain in flavor and quality, and in form like it, but six times its size, was very plentiful : three of the fruit grew upon one stalk. They peeled like the plantain. After the dinner the company retired. It was becoming twilight. Ooncroo took me to his sanctum, which was the upper room in the tower : he drew the ladder after us. We then went upon the top : it was about eight feet square. The temperature was mild, like that of a summer's day. Ooncroo took from a basket some leaves, of which he ate, and handed some to me. I found they possessed narcotic qualities, and imparted pleasant sensations. He then unrolled some shaggy skins, which he spread upon the roof, and threw himself down upon them, and in a little

while he fell asleep. I threw myself down also by his side, and watched the stars: the night was very clear. From the north star, I judged the latitude of the place to be about thirty-five degrees north. The aurora borealis made a brilliant appearance, illuminating the whole country.

The earth rose, and shone splendidly. I could scarcely take my eyes from her. Ooncroo waking, I attempted to make him understand that I came from that star. I think I succeeded: he was not much astonished at such a trip. He touched me, and pointed at the star; then stretched his two hands as far apart as possible, as much as to say that it was a pretty long distance. We then retired below, to the room under his sanctum, where I was left to pass the night; he ascending again, taking the ladder with him. I was a prisoner, of course, without egress above or below. I slept well, and awoke at daylight. Ooncroo came down; and we descended to the court, where we breakfasted from green and dried fruits and dried fish.

Ooncroo was a very amiable man: he did not seem to me to be a warlike character at all. I supposed he inherited his position. He desired to learn, and was eager to impart what he knew.

I observed preparations being made for some-

thing. Ooncroo desired me to follow ; and, with some ten attendants, we proceeded to the beach, where a boat of some pretensions awaited us. We embarked, and were rowed to the mouth of the river, up which we continued : the banks were lined with huts for some three miles, when dwelling-places became few and far between. Finally nothing but a wilderness surrounded us. A little farther on, we emerged into a lake, with high, precipitous mountains on one side, and a meadow covered with a jungle on the other. Ooncroo gave me to understand that this place was filled with wild beasts ; and he pointed out a herd of bison-like animals, at some distance before us : as we approached, they slowly disappeared in the jungle or woods. Some excitement then prevailed : the oarsmen pulled with fresh vigor until we arrived at the spot where the animals were seen, when several of the men disembarked, and with spears went cautiously into the forest. Snares had been laid for game. Animals of the description seen were esteemed for the value of the skins ; they being covered with long and full fleecy hair, very soft. Ooncroo came almost daily to this lake, to secure the game entrapped ; but on this occasion nothing was taken.

Upon learning the object of the trip, I resolved that he should not return home without a trophy. The powers of these hunters were so primitive and feeble, that the game was seldom frightened from favorite haunts. I saw that at once, and concluded the herd must be lingering near.

I directed the men to pull the boat along slowly, near the shore. After a few moments we came to a clear opening, and about an hundred yards distant was to be seen the herd grazing. They seemed to look upon us with contempt: a few shy ones only turned to walk away. The chance was glorious for me to make an impression. The sight brought Ooncroo to his feet: his eyes started out of his head. The nearest beast was a tremendous fellow, with a pair of horns coming down from each side of his head, and curving forward like the tusks of an elephant. I took deliberate aim just back of the shoulder-blade, and put a ball through him. He made one spring towards us, as though he intended a charge, and fell dead. The rush of the others as they fled into the forest was tremendous; but what shall I say of us in the boat? Ooncroo sprang up at the report, and fell back to the bottom of the boat as though he had been the one shot. Several of the men jumped overboard, and made

for the shore, and several fell down stunned. All this commotion rolled the boat so much as to throw me off my equilibrium; and I fell heavily upon Ooncroo, when he gave a piercing yell of terror.

Recovering from all this confusion, it was soon made known that a splendid prize had been captured. The beast was flayed in a short time, and the meat cut up into ten to twenty pound pieces, and loaded into the boat, half filling it. The animal weighed at least fifteen hundred-weight, probably much more. The joy of Ooncroo was inexpressible at this success, and we were rowed home with flying colors; for the skin was hung up like a banner, and the head and horns were fixed upon the prow, that the public might see what had been accomplished. As soon as the boat reached the landing-place, we were surrounded by many people; and the number continually increased as the result of the expedition became known. Every one was anxious to learn the particulars. It was spread abroad that the stranger with his magic spear brought the thunder and lightning to kill the game. I was looked up to now as a superior being. Before we arrived home the story of our day's adventures was made known by some of the

attendants who loved to tell good news. When we came into the court, the women ran to us, and patted and caressed us; and Flora rushed towards me at full speed, and threw herself into my arms, delighted at what I had done. Dinner was then served in the same style and form as on the previous day, but with greater zest and jollity. At twilight Ooncroo and I retired to the turret, and ate leaves. He fell asleep; and I gazed at the stars, watching always the earth and her little companion. Ooncroo, upon awaking, instantly pointed out that star to me, and patted me on the shoulder, intimating that he knew I came from it. He believed it. Few others would have believed it.

CHAPTER X.

IMMEDIATELY after breakfast, Ooncroo hastened to go upon another expedition ; and we started off as before, followed by about twenty other boats filled with men, who wished to witness the novel mode of killing game with thunder and lightning. We formed quite a fleet. We entered the lake ; and, after searching for a promising place, I landed. The boats all kept behind, at a short distance from the shore.

I had not walked twenty rods, when a sudden shout of alarm sounded from the boat. I turned, and beheld a large object, a species of bear, walking along after me at a pretty good pace, without heeding the shouts of the men in the least. As he approached me, he rose upon his hind feet, bear-like, presenting an excellent chance for a shot. I improved the opportunity, and put a ball through him. He fell over backward, and expired with scarcely a struggle. My stock of ammunition was

very small, and I was obliged to limit myself to only one charge on each excursion. I carried with me, however, a spare one, to be used in any particular emergency. Great excitement prevailed in all the attendant boats at witnessing this manifestation of power. Joy was expressed by all. The boats pulled ashore; and the men in a moment were around the monster, stripping him of his shaggy coat in a very few minutes. The hide was retained by Oncroo, together with some of the meat. The remainder of the carcass was distributed amongst our followers. The same triumphant reception awaited us at home as before. At dinner there was much frolicking, the females taking the leading part. *I* was the object of much caressing; but Flora, who seemed to consider me as her special charge, resented any approaches made by others.

That night I remained in my apartment below. Oncroo went to his turret alone. I slept well, and was up at sunrise. Oncroo was as earnest as ever to go on an excursion to the lake again. I declined accompanying him, for I wished to overhaul my gun and examine my effects: so he departed with his gang to examine the shores where his snares were laid. At night he returned with-

out a trophy, not having seen any large game whatever. Scarcely a day passed without a hunting expedition, either to the lake or woods.

I preferred the lake to all other places, because we had a boat always at hand to bring us home with our game. The reports of the gun had the effect very perceptibly of driving the game away back into the interior. Some days after penetrating the woods a long distance, we would return without having obtained sight of a single animal. That way of life was kept up from forty to fifty days, and began to be tiresome. During that time I had many opportunities of witnessing the customs of the people. The females — like Eve in the garden of Eden — were the first tempters. The privilege was accorded them of making advances to their favorite swains, and no woman was married until she had become a mother; then there was great rejoicing, and she was handed over to her love, and they took up their abode together in a new establishment prepared by their relatives and friends. Robes of fur and skins were the most coveted presents; and really they were the most valuable. Many presents of pottery and other household implements were given to the new couple, according to the standing and wealth of

their relatives. A ceremony was performed, of investing the new mother with a scarf, as a badge of her position. It was considered a mark of honor: once invested, no woman would ever be seen without it.

These scarfs were commonly made of leather, but many were of other materials, according to fancy. Some were highly ornamented. I never heard of a woman with two husbands, but very often of a husband with several wives. Ooncroo had four. I was as much besieged by females, young and beautiful too, as a foreign prince would be in America. Flora's watchfulness, always on the alert, saved me from harm. They believed in a supernatural being whom they worshipped, and supposed he dwelt in a mansion at the north pole, where all faithful people would be received after death. Whenever the aurora borealis shone brilliantly, it was believed the great mansion was illuminated, and that new guests were being received. At those times, and they were very frequent, the people came out of doors and worshipped, saying prayers, the females taking conspicuous parts.

The people made great use of pottery-ware. They were adepts in the art of its manufacture. In every house were many pots, or vases, from three

to seven feet tall, and from eighteen to thirty inches wide. They were lined on the inside with fur-skins. In the warm season these vases stood upright on one side of the room. In the cold season they were turned down upon the floor, and occupied by one person each for sleeping-nests. The heat from the bodies of the occupants made them comfortable and warm. When a person died, he was enclosed in his vase. A great pile of wood was made, and upon it were placed the vases that had accumulated. In the evening, upon a display of the aurora, the friends surrounded the pile: it was ignited, mourning expressions and prayers were recited, and it was supposed the consumed went directly to the great mansion.

It was summer during my sojourn. The weather was delightful. I was led to believe that they had a season of terrible cold, when all their robes and furs were called into requisition. In my wanderings along the beach I saw many shell-fishes and marine curiosities. One in particular I will mention. It was a three-fingered jack, which was the nimblest object I ever beheld. It would lie basking in the sun; but on the least disturbance it would throw itself up, and come down on its finger-end, and run off in the cart-wheel manner. Some-

times in its flight it would leap four or five feet into the air. They were of all sizes, up to a foot in length of finger. There was a curious shell that opened its valve like a steel-trap, and would lie in wait for prey. Frequently I have seen a jack in its hurry put its finger into one of those traps, and be caught. An amusing tussle would ensue, ending in the steel trap getting a good mouthful, and the jack go limping away with the loss of an inch of a finger. Bivalves were abundant. A species with a shell smooth and clean like a clam, but with flesh like an oyster, was a favorite. By inserting a small pointed stick in an aperture at the hinge, the shell would open itself, and present a luscious morsel. Fish abounded all along the shore; and, from the points of land at the mouth of the harbor, monstrous fish, like the whale, were almost always to be seen sporting not a great distance off. Occasionally a dead one would float ashore. When this happened it became public property, and everybody secured what he could for himself. Fishermen were on the constant lookout for lame or dead fish; and, when picked up outside, they became private property. Sea-fowl and land-fowl were abundant, and very tame. A single bird of beautiful plumage, as large as a swan, flew over

my head one day, while I was strolling in the bazaar. I could not resist the temptation; and I brought it down, to the delight and amazement of the bystanders.

I often thought of that country, "What a wide field for the sportsman!" "What a field for the mechanic!" "What a field for a missionary and teacher!" "What a chance for an educated man from the earth to become chief of an empire!" "What a country for a botanist!" "What a world of wealth for a naturalist and mineralogist!"

The people were gentle and effeminate, with nothing of a savage nature about them. They had a bright side and a dark side. I have pictured the bright side. Of the dark side, the less said the better. There was nothing, however, in their character and habits that could not be easily eradicated or changed by education.

I intimated one morning to Ooncroo that I intended to take a sail in my ship, and forthwith proceeded to bring her out into the court. Great curiosity was manifested by all the household to witness the operation of putting to sea. My ship was soon rigged, and her cargo on board. Flora, freshly decorated with flowers, had taken her seat; then came some very painful moments to me. I

took her by the hand, and led her from the car, and placed her in charge of a favorite female, and bade her remain. I took my place aboard, and hastened to ascend. I took leave without ceremony. The balloon rose beautifully. A scream from Flora pierced my ear, and thrilled me through. I shall never forget it. I parted from her reluctantly. I could not avoid it: it was better for her to remain; for she could not probably endure the ordeal through which I was to pass. I looked over the side, and waved my hand to her. She was standing with both hands outstretched towards me in an agony of grief. That was the last I saw of her, but not the last I have thought of her. Great excitement prevailed when the people beheld such a monstrous ship floating away in the air. The wind carried me along shore for a great distance. Many villages were to be seen near the sea, but none in the interior. After sailing along until sundown, I threw out ballast, and ascended rapidly. Then I made certain preparations, secured myself to the car more cautiously than ever, and the line from the valve I arranged so as to be sure of having it within my control if I continued in possession of my senses. Then I laid myself down as snugly as possible to await the event. The symp-

toms of vomiting came, followed by acute spasms. My arms fell powerless, my head dropped back, and I fainted. As soon, I suppose, as I reached the pure ether, consciousness returned; and, although sensible of what had happened, I remained quiet for some time. My strength gradually returned. The balloon was rent asunder. Then I beheld the planet: the water, more dazzling than the sun, was almost blinding to look upon. As the planet revolved, the land came into view. Many days I spent in looking upon that object, something upon its face constantly presenting itself to interest me. My time and attention were divided between that planet and the sun; but the planet was the more attractive, and for a good while had the greater portion of my attention. I gazed as long as objects could be defined, as lakes, rivers, and mountains; but that planet at last faded from my sight. Then the sun was the only object to be seen. Just before losing sight of the pale planet, I observed a ball pass over the face of the sun, — something entirely different from the spot I had before noticed. I had no doubt it was the planet Mercury; and so I argued, and was confirmed in the belief, that the planet I had just left was Venus. By the diminishing size of the sun

I was glad to know that I was speeding rapidly away from him; and I flattered myself with the hope that I should next rest my feet upon the earth. I repaired my balloon most thoroughly.

It was all day with me,—no night. It cannot be conceived how much I longed for one: one would have sufficed, that I might see the stars from which to judge my course. I knew not whither I was bound; but I well knew that there could be no night for me until I should come into the atmosphere or shadow of some planet.

At length I was delighted by the sight of a star. I watched earnestly for a satellite, and did not give up the hope of seeing one until the star had reached the apparent size of the earth's moon; then I despaired. The star at first wore a reddish hue, and gradually it became crimson. When I found it to be solitary, I knew that it could be none other than Mars. I felt almost sick at heart to think that I was to have further experience on another strange planet. My interest, however, was soon engaged in that new world. I could distinctly see the marks of the seasons upon the face of the globe, from the poles to the equator. The poles being white with snow and ice, extending down to about forty degrees of latitude, where it com-

menced to change to a green tinge. At the equator the color was a deep green, variegated with red and yellow. I could more distinctly make out the lines of the continents and oceans than upon either of the planets before visited. I could also perceive the inclination of the planet, — that the north pole was turned away from the sun. As the planet revolved, I distinguished two ridges of mountains, running parallel for many degrees of longitude. Between was a great lake or sea. The mountains were bright red, and the sea was green. Other seas and oceans were glassy. Some rivers were green; but the land generally was red toward the equator.

The rapid increase in magnitude of the globe convinced me that there was no alternative for me but to go into its atmosphere. I could see that snow covered a large portion of the surface; and I concluded that I should land in a very cold temperature: accordingly I clad myself in my warmest garments. Suddenly I experienced a cold shiver: I had reached the atmosphere. It seemed to me that I had never experienced so much suffering on similar occasions as at that time. I became unconscious. Upon recovering myself I found that I was passing through a cloud of snow. I was so

chilled I could scarcely move. I managed to check the rapid descent. A rumbling noise reached my ear, and it increased in strength. It was the sound that comes from a busy city. It came nearer and louder, until I could distinctly hear bells, barks, and other sounds, then the voices of men, when, to my astonishment, the car struck the snow upon the ground. Presently some men caught hold of the car; then it cleared a little, and I saw that I was in a street. A large crowd surrounded me: the number of people increased to many hundreds, all filled with curiosity.

The balloon moved along through the middle of a respectable-looking street for about half a mile, when it came to a stand. Some people were at first disposed to meddle with my traps; but seeing me disturbed, they desisted. The balloon was easily gathered into a mass. A stable for the keeping of horses and cattle was near by, and my property was conveyed into it. It was about five o'clock, P.M., when, all shivering with cold, I was led into a large room, apparently part of a public house. It was comfortably warm, although no fire was visible. I looked about then to see where I could be, and what sort of people I had come amongst; and certainly I should have said that I

must be in some city of northern Germany, on the earth. The people were very much in the style of the Germans. They were gentlemanly. Their language had a guttural sound, and altogether I was strongly reminded of the Germans. As it became dark, gas was lighted at jets from different parts of the room, giving a very brilliant light, far superior to the lamp and candle lighting of our people on the earth. I was puzzled to find how that brilliant light was obtained. After a while, I was ushered into an adjoining room, where a supper-table was spread, so very like what I had been accustomed to see in my own world, that the impression grew upon me, that I must be laboring under a mistake, — that I really was upon the earth, and that by some freak of nature the moon had ceased to exist. The supper was excellent, and to me very refreshing. It was the first I had partaken of for several months. I drank of a hot beverage, — neither coffee nor tea, but very palatable and exhilarating. I ate of bread, of the Italian variety, and of cooked meats and birds; and there were sweetmeats and confectionery upon the table, all showing a high degree of culture in the culinary art. I was at a public house equal to any one I had ever visited. The apartment allotted me was beautiful

and comfortable, warmed by the same invisible means as the dining and reception rooms. It was up one flight of stairs, and fronting on the street.

CHAPTER XI.

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In all my wanderings in other planets, I never saw any thing so completely parallel to the customs and habits of people on the earth as those I witnessed about me. The bed, however, was suspended from the ceiling by four metallic rods. I looked from the window into the street. The city was brilliantly illuminated by lamps at short distances apart, and from some great luminary, which I could not see, making it light as day. There were many people moving about, and sledges drawn by animals resembling the horse were passing rapidly. Bells were attached to the harnesses: the scene was lively. The people were well muffled up in thick garments and furs. I judged the temperature outside to be 15° of Fahrenheit, and inside at 68° . All things looked so natural, I concluded to make myself at home and as comfortable as possible. I turned into bed, and slept soundly until morning, when I arose and went below. I was

watched and gazed at with eager curiosity by many people, all of whom were of delicate complexion and courtly manners, and of about the ordinary size of men inhabiting the other planets I had visited. After breakfast, which consisted of a warm beverage and bread and broiled meats and some fruits at a single table, I walked forth with two companions, who did escort duty. The street was about six rods broad, lined with stately houses and other buildings of red stone. There were two temples in the street, one of them of red stone, with a peculiar style of tower some two hundred feet in height. The other was of green stone, like verde antique, with a dome some hundred and fifty feet in height. Farther on, coming to a street running at right angles, and descending, I could see water in the distance; and also, upon looking down the other arm of the street, I could see water in the distance opposite, so that the cross-street ran from sea to sea. As I looked down that street I saw some buildings enclosed by high walls. From the centre rose an immense chimney three hundred feet high, from the top of which issued smoke. I was curious to know what was carried on there, and walked to the place, and entered through a large gateway into an establishment which I found

to be for extracting illuminating gas from minerals, and generating heat, for the public use: and tiers of retorts for the purpose encircled a boiler or series of boilers of mammoth proportions; so that the city was both lighted and heated by means of pipes under ground, threading in couples the whole city, conveying light and heat to every house. That was exceedingly interesting to me, and I lingered there a good while. I noticed in the streets two different species of animals harnessed to vehicles, both very swift-footed. One was the horse, gaunt and slim like a greyhound; the other like the deer, with cloven feet and with antlers. Both were very beautiful animals to look upon, and very gentle and docile. Upon returning to my hotel, I found a large number of spectators gathered about the door, and a couple of teams in waiting. Inside I was presented to a gentlemanly-looking personage, who was a member of some department of the city, and came to take me under his charge; it having been spread abroad that a foreigner had arrived from some distant shore in a balloon. After a vain attempt to hold some conversation with the aid of several linguists, I was invited to join him in a ride in one of the carriages at the door. I accepted, and without ceremony

took a seat with him in the first one. It was a comfortable sleigh, lined with fur, and provided with comforters. Some of the party took the other sleigh, and followed us.

The city was located on very uneven ground, upon hill and dale. On several points of the highest land I observed shafts reaching to the height of nearly four hundred feet in the air. They were obelisk-shaped. I never saw any thing more substantial than the buildings that lined the streets.

At a mile or two distant we came to a house, where we alighted and entered. At the extremity of the hall we came to an office or study. There were many books shelved precisely in the same manner as seen in our libraries; and there were maps, charts, and plans suspended on the walls and hanging from frames. There were easy-chairs, and thick rugs on the floor, affording all desirable comfort, with a temperature that was delightful. An attendant soon brought in refreshments of delicate meat preparations, and fruit and bread and palatable beverages, but not alcoholic. All of the party freely partook, — some six of us. A brisk conversation between the gentlemen was kept up during the repast. I listened with a lively interest, but could get no clew to the subjects in question.

My clothes were examined as to the style and texture. I had on some which I had brought from the city of Uctiushillibactule; and well might their curiosity have been excited in regard to them. I had also with me a fur robe brought from Ooncroo's court, which was just the garment for such a climate as I had come into. After a while my attention was drawn to some maps, and I did all that was possible on my part to make them understand my story. A map was spread before me, representing a hemisphere of the globe. Our location was pointed out, and the city I was then in was called "Pheitcal." It was on a neck of land connecting a continent on the south with a head of land projecting five hundred miles into the sea at the north. The city extended across the whole neck, from shore to shore, in about 30° north latitude. Then I was motioned to show the place whence I came; and a map of the other hemisphere was spread out. I had been so often tried on that question and other matters, that I had become a very good expert in pantomime; and I proceeded to astonish and confound them by drawing a sketch of the solar system, and pointing out the earth with one satellite as my birthplace and my home. They seemed to be completely awe-struck

at first; then the liveliest conversation followed, and greater curiosity about me was exhibited than ever. How I came from the earth, and how I lived through it, puzzled them. I described my balloon, and gave them to understand that it was, together with all my effects, at the hotel whence they had brought me, and that I felt some anxiety respecting them. They wished to know whether or not I expected ever to return to my native country. I replied in the affirmative; but before leaving I wished to see something of their world. They then exhibited a plan of the solar system, — a very beautiful picture. I sketched off two hemispheres of the earth, showing the great continents, oceans, seas, and islands, which highly interested them. After that examination the company dispersed.

The gentleman-chief then took me again into his sleigh; and we rode off in a northwardly direction to the suburbs of the city, passing through several streets of neat and substantial shops and dwelling-houses. I observed on the way some novelties: among them were the shafts before mentioned. After about an hour's ride we reached a *château* surrounded by walls. That was the private residence of the gentleman interested in me. My

unique appearance doubtless attracted the attention of the family, as I noticed many faces at the windows when we passed around the house to the hall-door. Upon entering, the whole family rushed into the hall to meet us, and there was a lively time; ladies, girls, and boys much excited, wondering who had been brought home to them. I larked a little with the children, which delighted them highly. The ladies were dignified, and conducted themselves according to my ideas with much decorum and propriety, strongly reminding me of ladies in high circles on the earth. They wore girdles, with loose robes and double sleeves, the inner pair being tight, clasped at the wrist, the outer pair large, open, and flowing, adding grace to the movements of the arms. The material was of fine wool, very soft and warm. Their complexions were clear, white, and transparent; the color of the hair black, brown, and light. After the excited curiosity of the family had become allayed, we were ushered into an adjoining room, to a dinner spread in the same style as I had been accustomed to see it served in my own country on the earth, with such dainties, probably, as that country afforded: meats disguised, birds whole, fruit and pastry, and confectionery.

After the repast there was some play, and much laughing and hilarity with the children. In course of an hour the children were withdrawn; shortly after, the elders retired. I was given a room well provided with comforts, and with a hanging bed. The brilliant light outside attracted my notice, when I discovered that it proceeded from the top of the shafts: three of them were in sight, throwing forth a piercing white light, making the night as clear as day. I slept soundly, and rose with the sun. I had been taken under the protection of a philanthropic gentleman, at the request of some society of which he was a member: his name was Loshmeet, or Am Loshmeet, or Loshmeectam, — Am being the title applied to gentlemen, either before or after the name. He was agreeable, genial, affable, good-looking, and ever anxious to promote my comfort, and to gratify my wishes. The same may be said of all the ladies of his household: they all seemed to study my welfare. After breakfast I rode with Loshmeectam to his office. Quite a levee was held there: as many as a hundred persons called. Of course I was the object of interest which so attracted them: probably it had been widely represented that a visitor from another sphere was in the city. A great many

people gathered in the street, and waited in the vicinity, in hopes, I suppose, of getting a glimpse of me. I was inclined to walk out to gratify them, but I was overruled by Loshmeetam. After long discussions, which had taken up much of the forenoon, we were left alone. The sleigh was then called, and we took a ride down by the sea-shore at the east : there was a beautiful harbor, filled with vessels, lining the port and riding at anchor in the channel. They were mostly schooner-rigged, and splendid-looking vessels ; some were loading, and others discharging cargoes. The warehouses were mostly of one floor, high-studded, — about forty feet, — with appliances and machinery for lifting the merchandise to the top of the piles. I could have staid about these premises the whole day : I was in my own element there. We then drove directly through the city to an equally grand harbor on the west, which was almost the counterpart of that on the eastern shore ; and the merchandise was of the same description. We alighted ; and I went on board of one of the vessels, — a schooner of about five hundred tons burden, of beautiful workmanship, and having elaborate accommodations for passengers.

I longed to make a trip in such a vessel. In the

hold was ponderous machinery connected with a wheel projecting from the stern under water. I was unacquainted with the method of its working. I thought it was by the same power as that applied to vessels on the planet Jupiter ; but at the planet Mars, the wind was used as an auxiliary. From the harbor we rode to other parts of the city. The braziers' quarter was interesting : all kinds of copper-work was in course of manufacture. Copper seemed to be more abundant than any other metal : all pipes for the conveyance of water, gas, and steam, were made of it. They were coated inside with other metals. Bells were cast on the same premises. I saw many of various sizes, from the largest church-bell, down to the smallest hand-bell. Workmen were at hard labor in all the shops, looking and acting precisely like the workmen I had seen in our shops on the earth. The thin layer of snow on the ground made the sleighing barely possible, but we passed through several important streets : the substantial thoroughness of the buildings continually attracted my notice. We arrived home towards night, and were warmly greeted by the family.

I had seen much that day ; and although every thing reminded me of our earth, still it was very

apparent to me, that a stronger and more uniform mind was at work here on this planet. After dinner the children had a grand frolic: they took a fancy to me, and seemed to think me a very jolly fellow. They went to bed with much reluctance, the two younger weeping. I sat at my chamber window till past midnight, watching the stars, but watched in vain for my own planet. I was too late or too early. The next day, at the office, another grand levee was held, more numerous attended than that of the previous day. The public curiosity seemed to be awakened, and all alive to see me, and to hold some communication with me. Those levees continued daily for some time. I had been provided with some native clothes, and when appearing in them was not distinguishable from the natives, excepting they had a peculiar strut in walking, which I could not acquire.

CHAPTER XII.

My balloon and effects had been brought to the country-house of Am Loshmeet.

I had explored the city pretty thoroughly, and found that it improved upon acquaintance, and would bear the closest examination. The buildings were all built of stone or metal: the cornices were mostly of copper. The walks and streets were as even and smooth as though laid on solid rocks. The third or fourth day after my arrival, the snow melted away, and the streets became dry, and carriages of various descriptions on wheels appeared.

The trees and the shrubbery were without leaves, giving a cheerless aspect to the gardens; but it was easily imagined how beautiful all would be with the foliage and flowers in bloom. I was delighted one day to learn that Am Loshmeet intended to take me with him to Domocal, a city of great magnitude, about twelve hundred miles dis-

tant from Pheital by sea. Passages were secured, and all arrangements made to embark in three days. During the interval I gathered all the information possible respecting that city, and ascertained that it was large, ancient, rich, and magnificent, and the chief place of learning in that world.

I was all impatient for the trip : my imagination had been wrought up by the eloquent accounts given of its grandeur and fame. Am Loshmeet and myself took leave of the family, and, with two attendants, went on board at the eastern port. There were about forty other passengers. The accommodations were superb, with spacious parlors for parties or individuals, and with large saloons and promenades. The navigation was mostly inland, smooth and clear as a lake : the vessel was propelled by the power of steam, which revolved the wheel projecting into the water from the stern of the vessel. As our sailors would say, "she sailed like a witch." I never saw any thing like it. I think fifteen miles an hour was no exaggeration. We kept along the eastern shore of the sea for the whole of the first day, with the opposite shore distinctly in sight : it was mountainous and snow-capped. The fare on board was sumptuous. There was no sea-sickness.

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About noon on the second day we lost sight of the land at the west, but were near the land at the east; and by night we rounded the northern point of the eastern land, and bore away to the eastward. On the third day no land was in sight. Many vessels were passed. The nights were beautiful and clear. I saw the north star, and felt homesick. The water continued smooth. On the fourth day, at about noon, land hove in sight all along the larboard bow, — high land, at a great distance. We approached it rapidly, expecting to arrive at about midnight, being several hours ahead of time. All things were very quietly done on board. No sail was set during the whole passage; but in other respects the management was conducted in the same way as seen on board of a first-class packet-ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean. At about nine o'clock, I was called out to see "Domocal" in the distance. The light illuminated the heavens above. As we approached, separate lights came to be distinguished, which grew more and more brilliant and numerous until we came into the port, when they were perfectly dazzling. Chemical lights were gushing forth from every point, making the harbor as light as day.

Our vessel went directly to a quay, where prepa-

rations were already made for the arrival. All the passengers remained on board until the next morning. After breakfast, on the fifth day, we went ashore to a house where we were expected. Many people were assembled there,—learned doctors, to see what they could make out of me. I gave myself up completely to them; and by drawings, pantomime, and the use of their maps, and some few words of their language, I gave them my history,—that I was born on the earth, in America, had travelled over most parts of that planet; then, by a balloon, had flown to the planet Jupiter (a long breath was drawn at that point by the whole party); of what I had seen there, and of its high state of civilization; of my trip thence to Venus, (when another long breath was drawn by the whole party); of what I had seen there, and its low state of civilization; then of my visit to their own planet, and my alighting in the street in “Pheitcal” in a snow-storm; and then of my arrival at Domocal. During the explanation of that story, the party seemed scarcely to breathe, except at the times mentioned. They believed my story evidently. My balloon and traps corroborated it. Am Loshmeet made a long address. I could understand nothing of the words; but the purport was convin-

cing. A collation was served ; after which, I was taken in an open vehicle with a party making eight, and carried over the principal parts of the city. From the sea-shore the land gradually rose in a series of three or four terraces, each extending back about half a mile. The city was beautifully laid out, and as though one great genius presided over and arranged the whole plan. Nothing could be more thorough and complete. There were no incongruities in their buildings : all exhibited massive grandeur. At proper places rose the shafts for lighting the city. Looking up one of the avenues, I could see the several steps or terraces as they rose in the distance, making a vista of great beauty. There were temples built of red stone and of green stone. All those of red were alike, with high towers ; and all those of green were alike, with domes. There were other temples and public buildings. There was the usual bustle of a great city ; vehicles of all descriptions for pleasure-riding, and heavy drays and team-horses, crowding the streets. The great variety of useful animals attracted my notice. A species of antelope of beautiful form, harnessed to fancy carriages, were numerous, and pretty to behold. They were mostly used by children and young ladies. I saw

no beggars, nor any one who seemed to be poor, nor any dwelling-houses that indicated poverty. There were shops for all kinds of merchandise, and much good taste was displayed in the arrangement of the wares and articles for sale.

I saw some splendid cloths, silks, and velvets. Ladies in the street wore dresses very short: the hems of the skirts were at least a foot from the ground. Their boots were long, the tops being of fur. I think I saw pretty much the whole of that city, when toward sunset we returned to our hotel, and dined together. Afterwards we took a promenade through some of the principal streets. They were brilliantly illuminated. The lofty chemical lights were very effective, making it possible to read any printed matter as easily as by daylight. We entered a temple where some entertainment was going on. Ascending a flight of stairs, we entered a large circular hall, filled with an audience of three thousand people. In the centre of the hall was a pyramid of seats, filled with about two hundred and fifty persons, — gentlemen and ladies, mixed together without order apparently. Shortly they commenced a chant, with the several parts in pure harmony. The crescendo and diminuendo and sostenuto were exquisitely performed; the

solos of soprani and tenori were splendid, scattered as they were throughout the choir; the alti and bassi were equally grand; the full chorus was magnificent, no part outweighing the others. All was astonishingly smooth and equal. I never heard such vocal music before. The composition was sublime. There was an accompaniment, but I saw no instruments. After a while I discovered that the pyramid was an organ: at the apex was an opening whence the sound issued. At the conclusion of the piece we withdrew. The entertainment was highly enjoyable. In an adjoining street we entered another temple, which proved to be a theatre for dramatic exhibitions: that was also filled with an audience of ladies and gentlemen. The theatre was very handsome, having several ranges of boxes, as I had seen in the theatres in Italy. The performance was interesting and witty, as I thought, from the close attention and frequent laughter of the people. The piece was a comedy; the scene a parlor: three or four ladies and gentlemen held a long dialogue, which to me, without a knowledge of the language, was rather tame and tedious. From the theatre we returned home to our hotel, and retired to our several rooms. I was fatigued, and slept soundly.

The next day I was taken to another grand temple, belonging to a scientific association, where was held a levee. I was presented to several hundred. Great curiosity was excited about me. I supposed the story of my arrival from a distant planet had been spread abroad in that great city. I laughed and talked (in English), and made myself as agreeable as possible. Afterwards I was taken to the house of the chief magistrate of the city, and had an interview with him and his interesting family: he was a dignified man, middle-aged, inquisitive, but gentlemanly.

The ladies were pleasing, and smiled graciously, and were, as I thought, a little diffident. A little girl, however, with more confidence, took me by the hand, and, looking up into my face with a sweet expression, asked a question; which after a while I interpreted to be, whether I had a little sister like her in my country. I replied, "Ekse," yes; when she led me to a stand, and selected a beautiful jewel, like a locket, set with gems, and gave it me for my little sister. I accepted, and promised to deliver it, and silently prayed that I might be able to do so; then I took the little girl in my arms, and embraced and kissed her. Am Loshmeet, always by my side, answered all questions respect-

ing me, and gave some explanations of what he had learned from me; which greatly interested those present. After taking leave, we walked leisurely to our home.

Domocal was the largest and most celebrated of any city in the world of Mars, and contained about one million of inhabitants. There were four or five other large and distinguished cities on different parts of the globe, numbering from three hundred thousand to five hundred thousand inhabitants each.

That was my last day at Domocal. It was arranged to embark the next day, on our return to Pheital: accordingly we took our departure early in the morning, on board a very beautiful vessel. As we left the harbor, the sight was truly grand. After a fine passage, we duly arrived at Pheital. The inland seas made the navigation delightful: sailors scarcely ever lost sight of the land for more than a day or two at a time. There was no body of water of sufficient magnitude to be affected by the sun or moon (had there been one), to cause a tide. There were no tides observable at Pheital or Domocal.

One evening I went to an exhibition of a scientific nature, and was much interested in some views

of the subjects lectured upon : they were thrown upon canvas with such tremendous microscopic power as to make visible the animalcules and particles in the air. The dust from a piece of cloth showed hideous animals ; snakes as large, on the canvas, as anacondas, were writhing about amidst an endless variety of terrific beasts. The dust shaken from a piece of silk was composed of pretty much the same mass of living animals, with snakes of immense length, and very slim, with almost lightning activity. And so the lecturer went on, exhibiting the dust from a variety of textures of different colors, astonishing the beholders by the amount of life that fills all space, and giving a true picture of the menagerie of living animals that we all inhale at every breath.

I did not find out much about the religion of the people, further than that there were two sects. At Pheitcal I visited the temples of both. The services were composed of reading, lecturing, and music, conducted by men in citizens' costumes : the temples were always crowded on appointed days. The music was excellent ; but the other portion of the services was uninteresting to me.

Spring had set in : the trees were putting forth their leaves and blossoms, and the birds were chir-

ruping their songs ; the sun was bright and warm, and the air was filled with fragrance, when I determined once again to try my fortune in the air, hoping to be wafted to my native earth. My balloon was in order, and ready at any moment for action. I briefly took my leave, and bade my friends adieu. I was overwhelmed with mementoes and presents from them. A great crowd assembled to behold my departure. A very few moments sufficed for inflating the balloon. Loshmeetam at my side, I shook him by the hand, and waved adieu to the multitude. As I arose, I saw the ladies and children standing silently at the open windows : that sight affected me more than any thing. The clear, keen air was invigorating, and the ascent was rapid. The view all round about was beautiful. I never saw the atmosphere so perfectly clear. I could discern the buildings and streets, and vessels on the water, for a long time. The ascent was almost perpendicular ; and, with the powerful instruments in the possession of the people, I must have been visible when many miles in the air.

I anticipated the cold, and began early to clothe myself in my warmest garments. After the well-known localities had faded from my view, I laid down and made myself as comfortable as possible,

and I left myself to fate. I was drowsy, and fell asleep. In an agony of pain I awoke, and groaned in vain for relief, and at last I dropped into a state of unconsciousness. When I revived, I found all right. Fortunately I had partially opened the valve for the gradual escape of the gas; consequently the damage to the balloon was much less than usual on such occasions. Of course, my first anxiety was as to my course in the heavens. At an early period I discovered that I was speeding away from the sun. Oh, how majestic Mars appeared,—all red and green, with snow-white caps! Fleecy clouds thickly enveloped the equator; and the rays of the sun upon them brought out the same beautiful colors and golden tinges that are so often observed in the tropical climates of the earth. Mars and the sun were close companions for a long period. While the sun nearly held his own in magnitude, the planet diminished rapidly, and became dim. Then a bright streak on the edge of one side appeared, and continued to enlarge; but gradually the planet became as a star, then it paled and disappeared. I was travelling swiftly away from my home, farther than I had ever been before.

The sun was dazzling; it seemed to be dodging

around in all directions. Of course that was occasioned by the movements of the balloon. Clear blue ether and a ball of fire : no rising, no setting, no relief. How strange ! The sun became smaller and smaller, causing much alarm. A dreadful state of mind troubled me. At length a pale star was seen. I had been travelling for ages when this star appeared. I hailed it with perfect delight. Some time afterward another pale star appeared: these two divided my attention, for there was nothing else beside to look upon, except the diminutive sun. I had lost my interest in the sun, when the spots became invisible.

The first star faded from sight, and the second became brighter, and increased in brilliancy and magnitude. I watched it constantly, when I discovered a bright streak across the face of it, extending some distance beyond on each side. At that discovery my blood tingled in my veins from my head to my feet ; for I knew then that the globe was no other than the planet Saturn. That belief was soon after confirmed by the appearance of several moons. Four were distinctly visible ; others then appeared, and some of the first seen disappeared. The planet then absorbed my whole interest. The globe, encircled with belts, grew

brighter ; the rings grew brighter, and the moons grew brighter, until the grandeur of the spectacle overwhelmed me with its magnificence. No imagination can picture the sight. It was indeed awe-inspiring ! The magnitude of the group constantly increased. When I saw the sun alone, with no other object in view, he seemed like a ball of fire, almost within reach, moving about hither and thither like a jack-o'-lantern. When I supposed him behind me, he would appear before me ; but when another object came into view, as Saturn, both became stationary. It was astonishing how near they appeared to be, while yet they were so very distant ! Shadows of the rings were marked upon the globe, showing the divisions. As I approached nearer, the globe became paler, and looked as though it were covered with cotton fibre, quite white, with here and there immense openings of deep blue, constantly varying. I passed very near two moons, and soon after was drawn behind the rings, which shaded me from the sun. They then appeared like dark velvety clouds, glittering with myriads of stars flitting about like animalcules in water. The divisions of the rings were golden streaks of light. The stars in the heavens became visible ; but how can I describe the spectacle pre-

sented when I came between the rings and the globe! After passing the shaded sides of these immense sheets, the balloon sped northwardly as it approached the globe, so as to bring the sun in view, and soon after the bright sides of the rings. The rings then appeared like a sheet of dazzling light, reflecting the sun,—too brilliant to look upon. My balloon began to assume a position warning me to prepare for the change. Then I forgot all else, and set myself to work at the inflation. I had scarcely thrown in a charge, when I fainted away. Upon recovering consciousness, I found myself in the atmosphere, and gravitating rapidly toward the globe in an oblique direction, passing over one of those tremendous blue gaps. I thought I saw water in the depths. I believed it an ocean. A warm mist surrounded me, and for a long time I was enveloped in clouds, and saw nothing, and could not tell the way I was moving. After a while the clouds began to break away, and rich fragrance was perceptible; and I would get glimpses of the globe, and see the strong shadows of mountains and hills cast upon valleys and plains by the brilliancy of the rings. As I neared the globe, lakes and rivers, forests and meadows, were developed, presenting an inviting appearance

The clouds suddenly passed away to the west, hovering in that direction in tremendous black masses ; while to the east it was clear and beautiful. The sun's rays, deflected from the rings, made the whole scene indescribably magnificent and dazzlingly brilliant, the rings appearing like an ocean of fire, and gradually narrowing until they formed an arch encircling the globe. A beautiful spot appearing, I thought it a good quarter for landing, and determined to descend. The balloon was more buoyant than usual, and the descent was very slow, for I was reluctant to part with so much gas as was necessary. However, observing myself to be over a beautiful garden, I allowed the gas to escape almost entirely before I could touch the ground. It was quite calm. We came down as gently as a feather, and the balloon laid itself in folds sluggishly, like a man fatigued and tired out lying down to rest.

CHAPTER XIII.



I WAS myself, by long watching and excitement, completely exhausted ; for, from the time I came into the influence of this group until that moment of landing, many months of time must have elapsed. A cluster of beautiful foliage close by, dense with fruits and flowers, invited me to take shelter there from the scorching rays of the sun and rains.

As I threw myself down upon the turf for repose, the limbs of the trees seemed to extend their branches over and around me, to protect me more completely. I fell asleep instantly, and dreamed of fairy land and fairies. I awoke much refreshed. The leaves vied with each other as to which should do me the most service,—some fanning me, others crowding together to keep off a ray of the sun, while fragrant flowers shed their perfume, and seemed to plead with me to inhale their rich odors ; and bunches of delicious fruits floated in the air, waiting to be tasted. Reflecting upon these things,

I saw a young and beautiful female, richly and elegantly draped, looking with surprise and curiosity at my balloon and appliances, — such a fairy as I had dreamed of in my sleep. I remained quiet, intently gazing at the vision before me. After a few moments I was espied, when I arose to my feet, and advanced a step or two. She seemed to be in doubt whether to stand and meet me, or to fly. Choosing the latter, she skipped away, scarcely touching the ground before she was out of sight. I walked about the grounds, which were indeed fairy-like, — grottoes, silver lakes, fountains, and flowers, and stately trees, all illuminated by dazzling light from the heavens.

Shortly three persons appeared in the distance, slowly approaching. I was pretty well satisfied with my appearance; for I had dressed myself in one of my best suits, and felt that I could encounter these people, after my past experiences in other worlds, with nerve. But when they stopped before me, and gracefully moved their hands, and addressed me, I must confess that my heart throbbed a little, and a tinge of bashfulness came over me: however, it soon passed away, and I felt at home with them. As usual, words were addressed to me that I could not understand, and we had recourse

to pantomime. I was invited to walk with them ; which I did for some distance, when we came to an entrance-way into a hall cut from rock, and fitted up in a style of magnificence never dreamed of by any native of the earth. That great hall was made light as day by apertures through the top, which let in not only light, but air ; and the refreshing coolness that met us as we entered was perfectly delightful after the intense heat without. But this was not all that awaited us. I found myself in the company of a large number of persons, — men, women, and children, of the same forms and complexions as we of the earth, and possessing the same faculties, — all beautiful and social, richly dressed in costumes of bright colors. Among them I saw the one that stood by my balloon : she kept aloof, while the others surrounded me from curiosity. Here were lounges, chairs, and every conceivable thing to impart comfort. In the rear was a broad flight of stairs, that led down about ten feet to another hall of the same dimensions as the first, where the temperature was much lower.

In that second apartment were also many people. Outside, in front, was a lake all alive with water-fowls from the size of a petrel to that of a swan. Every thing thereabout was very attractive. Noth-

ing could be more splendid. All the trees, shrubbery, and plants were sensitive, and they would become excited when any one approached them. It was the same with flowers, which gave out their strongest perfume when approached. At that season of the year the people all slept in the open air. My companions changed frequently. The three who escorted me to the hall left me at the entrance, and others took charge; when I came out, another change took place. I was conducted to several prominent points, or, rather, I walked to several of them, my companions being followers instead of conductors. The beautiful sky, with every color of the rainbow, gave a hue to the whole landscape. I walked back to my balloon. Several persons were there inspecting it. With their aid I removed it to the bower where I had taken rest. I concluded I had landed early in the morning. Several hours, by my judgment, had elapsed, and the evening was setting in: the people from the hall were dispersing; and before I could consider much as to what I should do, the sun set. The stars shone out dimly. The sight of them was interesting; for several years had passed since I left Mars, and I was glad to behold them again. The arch curving the heavens, before pale and piercing, became

softer and of a deeper color, so that it could be looked at without affecting the eyes. Stars like meteors, of every brilliant color and black, moving in all directions, seemed to fill the rings. Then five or six moons appeared, of different sizes, the whole scene bewildering one with its magnificence. A dark copper-colored shadow upon the rings rose from the horizon many degrees in extent following the sun. As it reached the meridian, I fell asleep close by the side of my balloon, and slept until morning.

Awaking, I was greeted by the singing of birds, the bright sun, the shining rings, and the balmy air soothing the senses in a remarkable manner. Many people were moving about. I was struck with the great friendship and love all the people seemed to have for each other, the old and the young. They would embrace, and kiss, and give other tokens of affection at every meeting. Some of the people came gliding along in an extraordinary manner, scarcely touching the ground; and, to my amazement, I discovered that I, too, could do the same thing. I could run and spring and skim along, rising and falling with the undulations of the ground; and by giving myself fresh impetus every few rods by my feet, I could almost fly, and

pass over any desired distance. Children gambolled and scaled about like swallows, rising sometimes as high as ten feet. Some of them used artificial wings buckled to their backs, with the wings clasped to the arms like shields. With this apparatus they would skim from hill to hill without once touching the ground. That beautiful fairy, the first female who seemed to take an interest in me, again appeared, keeping at a respectful distance. She was conspicuous for beauty amidst a bevy of girls. She wore a bright star in front of the girdle that encircled her waist. From that I named her Stella. I wandered over those grounds for some time, frequently joined by parties, who would accompany me to special points for observation, endeavoring to describe to me places in the distance that were visible. On one summit I obtained a view of a city just beyond a hill; and still beyond appeared the ocean, — a glorious sight; while in the opposite direction I had a bird's-eye view of a paradise of a garden, extending over several miles, made up of hills and valleys, lakes, groves, immense ranges of glass houses, trees, bowers, lawns, and shrubbery, bounded by a high wall and gigantic trees, which I could trace in the distance. From the character of the people I met,

I thought that the grounds must be private, or limited to the upper class. I was not mistaken: they belonged to a club composed of the most wealthy of that country. I was treated with much respect by every one I encountered, male and female: they were ready to do me service.

I soon became known by the name of Exlee, which meant stranger, or wanderer. The glass houses were immense conservatories, filled with rare trees and plants, fruits and flowers. Labyrinths of galleries and stairways, concealed by vines and shrubbery, intertwined throughout. These galleries were very attractive. I spent an hour or more there almost daily; and on several occasions I passed the night there, lost in the foliage. Many people were always to be seen moving along through the passages, appearing as though they were floating in the air. So perfect were the arrangements, that the illusion was complete. The sight on entering was magic-like. I was spell-bound on my first visit, and several minutes passed before I could comprehend the scene before me. Far off in the distance, and some two hundred feet at least above the ground, a female appeared; and many others, singly and in groups, were hovering about the branches in all directions.

Nothing daunted, I pursued my way up amongst the airy bowers, meeting many personages, mostly young, male and female. Generally they were sunburned and brown: their features were regular and handsome, with sweet expressions. I frequently heard them say, as they saw me on the path, "Tel Exlee," — "Behold the stranger." Some of the younger would pass me quite flustered. I was not at all ashamed of my own appearance. I flattered myself that I outshone any of the beaux that I had seen. My age at that time must have been not far from seventy years; for, strange as it may seem, while on those flights through space, occupying so many years, my system, lying dormant, was not affected by time, but retained its youthful appearance; so that I showed as many years of age only as I had lived in the atmosphere of the planets. Indeed, no one would have taken me for more than twenty. My complexion was fair and clear, my eyes were deep blue, and I had a profusion of blonde hair. I was conscious of the sensation I was creating among the belles. It was made manifest in various ways.

Pursuing my course through the path, and in the midst of a bower of beautiful flowers, I came suddenly upon Stella: she took me by the hand,

said something, and led the way through parts of the grounds I had not before visited, and arrived at a grand entrance-way. Outside was a large, circular piazza, adorned with objects of art, and lined with trees. The piazza was filled with vehicles, one of which immediately approached us, and we entered it. As we sped away, I had no time to take pictures of what I saw ; but the sublimity of the views surpassed any thing I had before seen. We rode over a beautiful avenue, some three to four hundred feet in width, with long ranges of buildings on either side, having gardens in front, and immensely tall trees in the rear, towering their heads far above the buildings ; altogether affording very picturesque scenery, indescribably grand and beautiful, and greatly enhanced by the magnificence of the heavens.

The vehicles were mostly run upon five wheels, the fifth being the forward one, by which they were guided or steered ; the two next were smaller in diameter, and only touched the ground by reason of great weight in the forward part of the carriage. Ordinarily but three wheels were in play, — the forward one and the two back ; and there were many small carriages having three wheels only. All were driven by machinery in very compact

order, managed by a guide who was seated just back of the forward wheel. There was much pleasure-riding on that avenue. I saw many faces that I had seen before on the great grounds: they gave signs of recognition. Suddenly we turned into a driveway, and stopped at the door of a house, and alighted; but such a house as would surpass any palace on the earth or on any planet visited by me. Several ladies, three or four children, and two men came to receive us. The greetings were affectionate: embracing and kissing were interchanged between Stella and the ladies and children; and the children were lavish in their affectionate regards towards me. Stella led me into the vestibule, and into a saloon gorgeous in magnitude and decorations. There I was introduced to the company individually. Many others came in, to each of whom I was presented. The children, however, were determined to monopolize me. Perceiving that I was attracted to the specimens of the fine arts, they led me to many very curious things, — pictures, sculpture, and mechanism. These children talked so distinctly, and articulated the syllables so perfectly, that I thought, with their aid, I could easily acquire their language. Mine seemed to come very easy to them; for they would repeat

sentences after me with astonishing exactness ; and they remembered every word I spoke. I knew that I was the subject of conversation amongst the others, but with delicate tact they endeavored to conceal it. It did not take me long to determine who were the parents and brothers and sisters of Stella : I judged by the resemblance and tone of voices, and their cordial bearing towards each other. I was charmed with the whole company : a high tone prevailed, that I had never witnessed elsewhere. Their language was full of vowels, and beautiful to listen to ; but from the novelty of my position in that strange world, surrounded with so much to amaze and astonish me, I could not give attention to any particular study, especially that of learning a new language. Stella and her lovely family saved me from such an effort. We sat at a table with pencil and paper ; and every word I uttered was taken down in their characters, which looked to me like Greek or Arabic letters. When I perceived their drift, I gave them the pronouns I, you, he, she, we, they ; then, I love, you love, &c. With marvellous apprehension, my lessons were learned as fast as I could give them. We spent an hour in that pleasurable pastime. A crimson hue pervading the atmosphere, gave notice of

approaching sunset, when we all walked out into a garden cultivated in the highest degree, where fruits were in great variety, of which all freely partook.

There was one kind particularly grateful : it was about the size of an orange. Some were green, some yellow, and others purple and red ; they were without pulp, except a thin, spongy fibre, but filled with a delicious liquid, with different flavors, according to the colors : the green were acid and very refreshing ; other colors were sweeter, — every taste could be satisfied. After walking about a while, we returned into the house, where I was shown a room specially allotted to me. I took an affectionate leave of Stella, who, as ever, exhibited a touching passion. My window faced the north : the brilliancy of the night dimmed the stars ; yet I singled out the North Star and several other fixed stars that were familiar to me ; but that broad ribbon of soft and mellow light eclipsed all else in the heavens. When the shadow had reached the meridian I fell asleep where I sat, and at daylight awoke much refreshed, feeling as vigorous and elastic as ever in my life.

CHAPTER XIV.

PEOPLE were stirring on the avenue. Stella came in, looking bright as a fairy, exclaiming, "Love!" and then repeated many of the short sentences remembered of the lessons given the evening before. She took me about the apartment, showed me an extensive wardrobe filled with costumes of various descriptions prepared for different temperatures, and gave me to understand that they were for me. There was every convenience in the room, and arrangements for lighting when the season rendered it necessary. At that time ordinary printed matter could easily be read at midnight.

After a short intercourse with the family, we started on an excursion in a carriage, accompanied by the children, and rode to various points in a large and magnificent city. There were streets of palaces, and streets of cottages. Every house was surrounded with trees bearing fruit. The palaces had extensive orchards and gardens in their rear.

The avenues were immense. There were temples of imposing grandeur, and fountains of fantastic and beautiful forms, throwing water in sprays and in streams, some to a great height. I saw several extensive parks, like the one I had alighted in, which I learned belonged to different associations and classes. I found that families and professions were classified, and each class possessed a park of the kind described; and all were zealous in keeping the lines distinct, very much like the caste among the Hindoo races in Bengal on the earth. "Bechekka" was the name of that great city. I never saw a quarter-part of it. The mechanic arts were brought to a high state of perfection. Every profession was organized by itself, making its own laws, subject, however, to a general government of delegates from the several professions and classes. There was no monarch or autocratic individual to rule. The highest officer of the government was he who presided over the delegates, and who is elected from among themselves. The different trades were carried on in different sections of the city. Those who had acquired great fortunes withdrew from the trades if they chose to do so, and joined the class of independents, which was a high order.

We rode into a great open square, three sides of which were lined with the most splendid buildings in the city; the fourth side was a garden, arranged with exquisite skill and taste, decorated with flowering shrubs. On a rising mound in the centre was a temple of beautiful proportions. A roof, profusely ornamented, resting upon shafts of pure metal, like a Baldachino, covered the temple. At the front, between two grand entrances, was an altar upon which was a fountain: this was the temple of the Holy One. There were walks and carriage-ways about the grounds; and we rode close by the holy place. I observed sentences on panels about the altar. Thence we rode through various portions of the city. I saw many strange and extraordinary buildings, and things which, in my ignorance, I am unable to describe. I did not see a four-footed animal of any description. All the streets and squares were paved with large, smooth stones, in mosaic work, and in a manner inconceivably perfect; and all out-of-doors was as neat and clean as could be found within doors of any house I ever entered. After reaching home, I was again plied by the children and family for knowledge and information respecting myself. My words, as before, were taken down and commented upon in

writing; and it was surprising to me how rapidly difficulties were overcome by them. These rides and employments continued almost daily for many days: during that time, I gained much knowledge of the customs of the people. Meantime the affection between Stella and myself was knitting itself closer and closer, if that were possible. In forming matrimonial alliances, it was the prevalent usage for the ladies to make the proposals. One day, soon after my arrival, some one was explaining to me this custom, when Cherry (the name I had given to one of the children) said, "Stella has chosen you." I looked at Stella, and she at me, excitedly. I extended my hand to her, which she grasped in both of hers, and raised it to her lips. I felt the moisture of a tear, which touched my heart. A sensational scene ensued. I was embraced by all present. These were the happiest moments of my existence. I seemed to have entered upon a new life. From that time Stella and I were almost inseparable: she made rapid progress in my language, as also did the children, so that after a short time we could converse very well. Our marriage was to take place soon: awaiting that event, I took little interest in any thing else.

At length the happy day arrived. The ceremony

was simple. Stella was arrayed in a beautiful costume: she was fascinating. I wore a selected suit, which I fancied was becoming to me, from the wardrobe. The party, composed of the family, some relatives and friends, and Stella and myself, rode in carriages to the temple, where we alighted and ascended to the altar, and each of us drank a goblet of the water from the fountain: it was the most palatable beverage I ever tasted. Then we entered a room behind the altar, where were many books, all of very large size: one of them was open upon a table, and we were directed to write our names in it. I wrote mine at the top of the left-hand page, and Stella wrote hers at the top of the right-hand page. The names of the persons present were also inscribed as witnesses to each signature. The two pages were to be reserved for the record of such events in the lives of the individuals as might be deemed of importance. When I was requested to write the place of my nativity under my signature, I wrote in Roman letters, "Earth, America, New York, Albany." Mine was probably the first signature in that line of books of any native of the earth. I did not look back to ascertain if it were so. Upon leaving, we again drank at the fountain, which sealed us man and

wife. We twain were one flesh. Stella was mine! The sentences on the panels were interpreted to me. The water was made palatable and inviting, and everybody drank of it in a serious and conscientious mood. A fault committed after partaking of that water made a person doubly culpable.

Upon our arrival home, expressions of satisfaction were manifested by every one. A vast number of callers came to offer congratulations. We were supremely happy. We visited daily the great garden and many places of interest, and we studied the heavens together. I told of what I knew of Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Herschel. They have another planet outside, and a broken planet next to Jupiter; and their planet, Saturn, which they call *Rotula*, had eight satellites. We had much company, and I was questioned often about the planet I came from; for I had given out that I came from the earth. I told them of its civilization, and that I was a fair specimen of its inhabitants; but when I stated that I had visited "*Lemanis*" (Venus) and "*Alchicruta*" (Jupiter) they thought me insane. Stella believed me, and was intensely interested in the story of my life and adventures, and she delighted to dwell upon them.

After some one hundred days, Stella was taken ill with a fever, and she became worse from day to day. Oh, what an agony came over me! Anguish inexpressible! she died, clasped in my arms. I wished that death would take me also. A raging fever of the brain seized upon me, and I became unconscious, and lingered in a hopeless state for many days; but a vigorous constitution sustained me, and, with much care bestowed upon me, I was restored to life and health. But how different were my feelings! Stella was constantly in my mind, while interest in all else had departed from me. The family strove to divert my mind, and to cheer me; but I could find no relief. I wished to fly away somewhere; and I resolved to take to my balloon.

I communicated to the household my intention of departing at an early day. The children could not be reconciled to it, and, with the whole family, made strenuous efforts to dissuade me from my purpose; but I would not be moved. I determined to take my departure from the very spot where I had alighted, and where I had first beheld Stella; and for two or three days I employed myself with inspecting my balloon, and in putting it in order for use. When all was ready, I had to go through

the painful task of leave-taking : the severest was the parting from the children, Stella's sisters. I loved them. Many presents were given me. I had not before been aware of the great interest the public felt for me : it arose, perhaps, from sympathy in my affliction ; and I was surprised to find so large a gathering present to witness my departure. Quietly as possible I inflated the balloon ; and, as it rose from the ground, I let slip the cord which held it there, and we fled aloft. I waved my hand adieu : the people responded by a shout, and the trees waved their branches as though sensible of what was transpiring.

The balloon soared grandly, and I knew that I should pass through the atmosphere ; but what a splendid scene was before me ! Below, the globe seemed to be caving in, and sinking. The horizon showed growing outlines, and the great rings widened as they touched it, tapering to the meridian ; and the rays of the sun, as they streamed beneath the rings toward the globe, were diversified with all the colors of the rainbow, changing and dissolving, and re-appearing with golden hues ; and when the night came the scene was still magnificent, but of a different character. The deep, dark shades of blue ether set off the moons and bril-

liant stars and the broad rings, so that they appeared like gold and diamonds, — fit jewelry of the gods! — and all I could see of the globe and the clouds were silver-lined, shaded to a deep blue, soft and beautiful; while the haze in some quarters reflected the aurora-colors. All these were not dormant, but were changing continually; and, as the morning dawned, the light seemed to come in flashes, and run along the whole circuit of the rings, diversifying its colors, which were every moment increased in depth and brilliancy as the sun approached; and when he appeared, the gush of light was overpowering, making one feel that it was like that which burst forth when the fiat was uttered at the creation, "Let there be light!"

CHAPTER XV.

I WAS travelling at a rapid rate. My balloon was distended to its utmost: I was obliged to open the valve. I bade farewell to the stars and to night. My ascent was northward, so that I could see the whole of the rings which surrounded the globe; and in the distance I saw the moons, — eight of them.

My transition from the atmosphere to the ether had already taken place. I could not tell when it occurred. Thoughts crowded my mind. My whole life passed in review like lightning. I saw Flora, who looked upon me as a divinity, with uplifted hands, calling upon my name. Then I saw Stella, my wife, — indeed a divinity, -- a corpse in my arms! Oh, the anguish that wrung my heart! I was reclining at the time in the car, when a sensation came over me similar to that I had once before experienced. My spirit had taken flight, filled with the thoughts of Stella. Suddenly a tremor thrilled my soul as I heard "Love!" ex-

claimed in that voice which will never cease to vibrate in my mind. Stella was by my side in all the radiance of her beauty. The re-union was exquisitely sweet, the particulars too sacred to be related. Then I beheld myriads of people all about me in every direction, extending to an immense distance as far as could be seen. There were many groups of more or less in number, and others arriving and departing. Many happy re-unions were taking place, and all seemed to have something of interest in hand. Their costumes were the same as those I had seen worn at "Bechekka," but the colors were continually changing, as though great waves were passing over the masses. Stella was clad in a flowing robe, girdled at the waist by a burnished golden band. The dress was gathered at the shoulders, and held by buttons, and was without sleeves. The material was a tulle-like fabric, and at first of a yellowish color; but, during my presence, it changed to green, blue, crimson, golden, silver, and white. Then there gradually appeared a canopy of tremendous proportions and of gorgeous splendor, sparkling with gems, covering the whole multitude. Presently a sound of voices was heard, of different parts in harmony, but beautifully blended, gathering in strength, and

swelling to an immense power, making the hair to rise on my head. I thought "that was indeed paradise!"

The sounds died away, the canopy vanished, and the people disappeared. All was as real as any thing I had ever witnessed in mortal life.

Stella said, "I have much to do here. Oh, it is beautiful! You must go now. We shall meet again, love, never more to part." She disappeared as I exclaimed, "Stella!" I thought of my balloon, and instantly it was before me. My form lay crumpled up in the bottom of the car, a pitiable object to behold. I re-animated it, and recovered myself. That was the second time that phenomenon occurred to me. My peace of mind was restored, and I looked forward with certainty to future happiness. The planet was still visible; and I must have been directly above the north pole, as the globe was perfectly in the centre of the rings. The course of the balloon then became directly towards the sun; and for a long period the sun was on my right, and the planet was on my left. I saw the rings gradually close, touch the globe, then become a bright streak across its face, and finally fade away, leaving only a pale star to be seen, and that, too, soon disappeared. I cannot

tell the time I travelled in space. I had no means by which to estimate: it seemed years. My great consolation was, that I approached the sun: it continually enlarged in magnitude. I watched eagerly and constantly for a star. I never slept. At length I was blessed by the discovery of the long-sought object. A pale star appeared, not very distant from the sun. High hopes filled my breast. That it might be the earth was my earnest prayer; and, when I saw a single satellite by its side, my joy was inexpressible. I knew it to be the earth. Many an hour—I might say days, weeks, even months—did I watch that planet. I was approaching it with lightning speed; and soon it was neared sufficiently to make it certain to my mind that I should rest upon its bosom again.

The moon was playing about it, passing to and fro. Then came to my mind the long past; my youthful days, my parents, brothers, sisters, and friends. I had no idea of the time that had intervened since I left the earth. I supposed, however, that many years must have elapsed. I have no doubt that I am endowed with some peculiar organization, possessed by a few or no others, or I could not have endured what I have passed through. The earth increased in size. My excite-

ment kept me alive to every new development. Clouds and clear spots came to be distinguished, and glimpses occasionally of the outlines of the continents and water-shores. After some time I found myself between the earth and the moon. Finally, as I approached the atmosphere, I made arrangements for sinking into it. I put all things to rights, and was ready. The earth passed before the sun, causing darkness: the stars became visible. That was a great change for me. I need not say how grateful the sight was. Slightly, by degrees, the balloon began to assume a position perpendicular to the earth; and I inflated it. The atmosphere then rushed into my lungs; and, after a struggle, I breathed. The balloon behaved remarkably well, descending rapidly. The cold was intense. I clad myself in overclothes. As I approached the earth, it became warmer; and the appearance of the sun made me comfortable again. The fragrance of the atmosphere was delightful. I could see that I was over the land, safe from any water; which was a great relief to me.

I could not ascertain, nor even surmise, over what part of the earth I was hovering; but I was determined to land at the earliest favorable moment. At length a clear spot appeared, but without the

sign of a dwelling-place ; so I skimmed along the surface for many a mile : it seemed like an ocean of land, without a tree or a hillock to break the monotony ; then I espied an immense throng of animals grazing, which I supposed at first to be wild horses, but they were buffaloes.

The wind, which had driven me so rapidly, moderated ; and the balloon travelled lazily along not more than two hundred feet from the ground. I was very loth to land at such a place, in the midst of wild animals. At sunset I determined to keep aloft all night, and I introduced more gas. At daylight the scene was about the same as on the previous evening, but no animals could be seen. Towards noon I descried a smoke rushing along the surface of the ground with great rapidity, followed by a long body. I could distinctly hear a rumbling sound, which I did not doubt proceeded from that object. It seemed to me like a dragon with a fiery head, as fire spouted from its nostrils. As I passed over its course, I saw the path gouged into the earth in its mad career. I began to wonder whether or not I had made a mistake, and had come into the influence of some other planet. But, shortly after, I passed over a cluster of wigwams, which I recognized as those usually made and oc-

cupied by American Indians ; then I was satisfied that it was the earth below me. I kept on for a long time, in hopes of seeing some signs of civilization. At length a village appeared ; and, as night was approaching and the wind increasing, I concluded to descend, and touch *terra firma*. The landscape had become varied : streams, rivers, and forests appeared. Observing a clear spot, I opened the valve for the gas to escape : but the balloon did not descend so promptly as I expected ; and, before my grapnel would take hold, I was among the trees, and dragged over them helter-skelter, spilling out the contents of my car, and finally leaving me in the branches of a tree, considerably bruised by the rough encounter. Fortunately I kept my wits, and clung to my position until I had recovered my strength, when with difficulty I descended to the ground. My balloon had cleared itself when disburdened of my weight, and drifted off to the northward, lost to me forever. I picked up my gun and a few things, made my way out of the thicket, and bent my course towards the village over which I had passed.

A party of men who had witnessed my peril came out to my relief, and escorted me to the village. All were curious to learn the particulars of

my trip, wondering where I came from. I went into a tavern, and was invited by the landlord to partake of a supper. I learned that I had landed at a village called Elkhorn City, in the State of Nebraska, one of the United States of America, latitude $41^{\circ} 20'$ north, and longitude $66^{\circ} 20'$ west, on the third day of September, A.D. 1873, — just fifty three years, two months, and two days from the day I left Albany on my excursion; making my age seventy-six years, ten months, and twenty-six days. I could not realize it, as I appeared to myself and to others a delicate stripling of some twenty-five only. I was treated with the greatest hospitality by the good people of the house. The language — my native tongue — sounded curiously to me. Very different it seemed from what I had been accustomed to hear fifty odd years before. I had some difficulty in following it. I was informed of many changes which had taken place in the country: that Gen. Grant was president of the Republic; that the dragon-like object I had seen the day before was a train of cars drawn by a steam-engine, which traversed the whole breadth of the country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, transporting passengers and merchandise. And they told me of instantaneous

communication with any distant part of the world, and offered to advise my friends, wherever they might be, of my safe landing. I expressed a desire to start for my home at Albany on the morning of the next day; when several persons volunteered to convey me to Omaha City, where I could take passage on board the steam-train of cars for my home. I accepted the proposition of one of them, who was a son of the landlord; and the next day he drove me over the road in a wagon. The distance was about twenty miles. I safely arrived, but in a sore condition. I had not been accustomed to such rough travelling for more than fifty years. At Omaha I made arrangements for my speedy departure, and took a passage for Albany, and started on the same day. After a fatiguing journey of three days we reached Albany,—a desert or a wilderness to me. I recognized nothing. Our old place in the country was now lost in the city,—I could not tell where exactly. There was no person of my name a resident of the city, and I could not find one who had ever heard of the name. I was in despair!

Fortunately I possessed some valuable jewelry, which I had accumulated at Bechekka and other places, and which I had secured about my person.

That jewelry afforded me means of support. I disposed of it gradually: it brought me large sums of money. I took lodgings in a comfortable quarter of the city, and made many friends. Often I related parts of my experience to some of them, which were always listened to with great interest, but with incredulity. I was advised to publish my narrative in a book; and, thinking that there might be other individuals in existence of my own type of organization, who would be interested in reading an account so peculiar and extraordinary, I determined to give my story to the world. Happily I preserved my papers, memoranda, and sketches, made from the year 1821; and they have enabled me to give this brief account of my travels and adventures. I shall continue my search for my relatives, and hope eventually to visit the home of my ancestors in France. And what may be my course afterwards, I have not determined; but possibly it may be to make further explorations.

THE END.

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