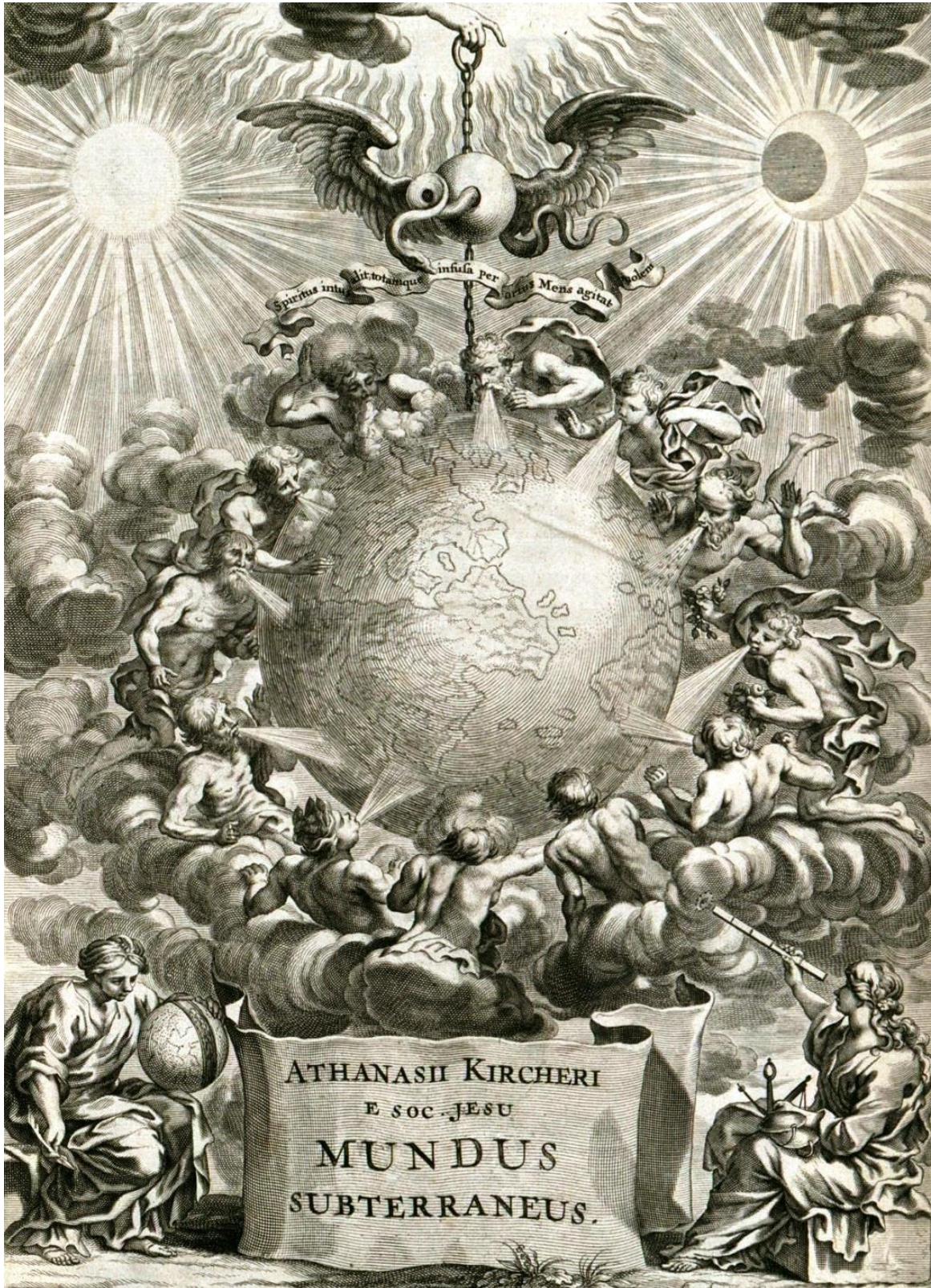


The Hollow Earth



The world's agitator and reconciler

From *The Theosophist*, July 1884, pp. 251-54. Cf. *The Hollow Globe; or the World's Agitator and Reconciler. A Treatise on the Physical Conformation of the Earth*. Presented through the Organism of M.L. Sherman, M.D., and written by Prof. Wm. F. Lyon. Chicago: Religio-Philosophical Publishing House, 1871.

Leaving aside the question of the supposed origin of this book as a spirit communication (the "Spirit" may have been an "Adept"), its central idea is that this globe of ours is constructed in the form of a hollow sphere, with a shell some thirty to forty miles in thickness, and that the interior surface, which is a beautiful world, in a more highly developed condition than the exterior, is accessible by a circuitous and spirally formed aperture, that may be found in the unexplored open Polar Sea, and this opening affords easy navigation by a broad and deep channel leading from one surface to the other, and that the largest ships or steamers may sail or steam either way, with as much facility, as they can pass through any other winding or somewhat crooked channel.

As the author has not seen himself the interior of this inner world, but depends in giving his details about the same on clairvoyant examinations, and as no Polar expedition has yet reached the pole, although some expeditions came very near to it, and there being apparently nothing to prevent them from reaching it, unless indeed it may have been the exercise of some occult power — the author of course cannot positively prove that the globe is hollow and inhabited, but he does this negatively by proving that it cannot be otherwise.

He first shows that every noted event in history has occurred in exact order, and in its proper time and place, in regular succession; so that it could not have possibly occurred sooner, nor longer delayed. Each event took place in exact accordance with man's condition at the period of its occurrence. Gunpowder, steamships, printing presses, electric telegraphs were inventions born of the time when necessity called them into existence. When Catholic supremacy and intolerance overran all Western Europe, an obscure young sailor was deeply impressed with an idea that finally resulted in the discovery of what was termed a new world, new western countries became settled in proportion as old eastern countries became overpopulated, the ever surging tide of emigration has steadily rolled on in its onward course from Central Asia through the continent of Europe, then across the Atlantic to the Eastern shores of America, through the wilderness and across the desert plains and precipitous

mountain ranges, until it finds itself opposed by the broad waters of the Pacific Ocean, with a densely populated country on the other side.

Emigration like revolutions never moves backward if it can no more reach forward to the West; it must spread to the North and South. The coming emigration to the North has already been foreshadowed by the purchase of the Russian Possessions in North America by the United States. Alaska seems to be the future halfway station between America and the North Pole, where the extensive steamship lines, which at no remote period will be established, will take in their supplies of coal. At the present rate of increase, in less than a hundred years from now, America will have a population of over 400 million and a new territory must be found to accommodate them. Such a territory will be found by following the warm Kuro Siva current of the Pacific ocean through Behring's Strait into the open Polar sea.

Having once penetrated the frigid belt, we find there an ocean of some 1,200 miles in diameter with a temperate climate. Man seems to be irresistibly attracted to it, for in spite of all the failures, caused mostly by serious blunders of scientific men, Polar expeditions will be continued, until we finally shall succeed in entering the charmed circle, which is bordered by a frozen zone of some ten degrees latitude, generally ranging from 70 to 80 degrees. Within this circle the climate cannot be dependent for its temperature to any considerable extent upon those causes that regulate the changes of the seasons south of the glacial belt, by which it is surrounded. For if dependent upon such, it would for ever remain locked in the frozen embrace of the vast fields of ice, that would accumulate from year to year and from age to age. Those great formations would have naturally encroached upon the temperate latitudes, thus extending their area and depth, until all the waters upon the face of the earth would have been attracted thither to swell the increasing glaciers of the Arctic regions, and all the solar and other influences operating in the temperate zones could not have prevented the catastrophe, had not the great presiding mind ordered it differently, by arranging this globe so that a temperate climate might also exist at this polar extreme. This makes the open Polar Sea a necessity, and it seems rather strange that navigators have never entered the same. Some of them declare that there was nothing in view to hinder, for, as far as their eyes or glasses would reach towards the North, all was open; no impediments in the way; but they did not go on. Some inexplicable reason prevented those parties from pursuing where the road lay open before them, and has prevented their successors from finding any open pathway, and the great geographical enigma of our globe still remains unsolved, waiting for a Columbus to solve it.

Captain Parry in 1810 saw no visible signs of ice in the very highest latitude he reached; Wrangle in 1820, far to the north and east of Behring's Straits, saw no appearance of ice, but for some strange reasons these navigators did not prosecute their explorations. Whalers and others insist on having seen the open Polar Sea, and the Kuro Siva and Gulf stream are positive proofs of its existence. Its temperate climate may be attributed to the longitudinal electro-magnetic currents, converging into a common focus at or near the pole and their entering the shell. These converging activities, passing through water or the more solid earth to the interior surface, must

necessarily produce considerable heat, doubtless sufficient to prevent the freezing of the waters of the entire polar circle.

The defenders of the igneous theory of the interior of the earth describe the same as an immense bombshell, filled brimful with intensely molten lava, surrounded by a crust from twenty-five to sixty miles in thickness. In support of their views, they tell us of the increasing temperature as we go downwards into the earth, the igneous formation of granite, the supposed action of hot water upon the lower sedimentary rocks, the large extent of territory affected by earthquakes, the vast amount of lava thrown from volcanoes and the continuous activity of the same.

The prominent argument for the existence of this scientific hell has been the increase of temperature as we penetrate the earth, generally about one degree in fifty or sixty feet; but it has been found that in deep soundings of the ocean the water was colder as they approached the sea bottom. The ocean has given us access to a point 37,000 feet nearer this terrible imaginary furnace, but that tremendous depth failed to present any indications of increasing temperature. Lately an artesian well was sunk in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, to the depth of 3,843½, and by so doing the question of increasing temperature has been settled for ever. It not only did not support the theory of internal heat, but proved exactly the opposite and established the theory of internal cold. Instead of placing below our feet the most active and dangerous materials, that would be constantly making disturbance, the controlling intelligence has placed there the most inactive, that would lie still. It was found that at the boring of that well the heat increased until they had measured 3,209 feet, where the temperature was 107 degrees F. It then began to sink, and at 3,817 feet it showed a temperature of 106 degrees — and at 3,827 the thermometer fell to 105 degrees. At this rate we would arrive at a depth of about nine miles a temperature somewhat below zero, and doubtless still farther below we should find the foundations of this globe in that frozen negative condition that will induce them to lie still until all the great destined changes can take place upon and near the surface, that have been provided for in the vast programme of the world's past and future history.

If we construct a sphere of eighty inches in diameter instead of 8,000 miles with a shell of four-tenths of an inch in thickness, we would have the relative proportions of the earth's interior and its crust as given by our fire-philosophers. We may now place within the interior liquid fire at 7,000 degrees — which, says Prof. Hitchcock, is sufficient to melt all the materials of the rocks; and no intelligent person could be found, who would not arrive at the conclusion that the shell itself would soon become a liquid mass as its entire contents are only one thirty-fifth part of the fire within.

It is difficult to conceive of an idea more repugnant to our natures, or one more horrible to contemplate, than that the vast interior of our globe, which might easily have been fitted up so grandly and beautifully, and subserve the glorious purpose of producing and sustaining human intelligence, should have been so miserably ruined by being filled brimming full of incandescent lava.

We pass for the present to a consideration of the supposed igneous formation of the granite rocks, and come to that period where it is said that in consequence of great internal heat the earth's surface produces a wonderful prolific growth of vegetation of

gigantic proportions, such as enormous tree ferns, calamites, sigillaria and numerous varieties that have left their fossil remains on top of the Devonian and immediately below the coal formation. It appears that this immense flora was found upon the top of a very extensive formation, which is still above another of fossiliferous rocks that had been the residence of organic living beings for untold ages before this growth existed. Now the difficulty seems to be, not to produce the extensive growth of vegetation, but to obtain the amount of heat from the internal source that would transform these forests into bituminous and anthracite coal and still permit the existence of vegetable and animal life to continue. A heat, sufficient to produce even charcoal, would not be considered conducive to healthy growth of such life, and it is evident that many ages previous to the coal period these forms of life existed and flourished as all the Palaeozoic rocks testify. After the crust has so cooled down as to produce vegetable and animal life, it would be impossible many ages afterwards to get up a heat that would make the world a universal coal pit. The causes of the great coal fields that now supply our manufactories, steam engines and dwellings with fuel, must be looked for in some other direction, which the author explains, but which space does not permit us to examine.

Volcanoes are supposed to be vent holes or chimneys that reach from the surface to the great fire within, contrived for the purpose of safety valves that may permit any surplus gases or dangerous elements to escape. No one will deny that a globe of molten lava, that has an area of nearly 200,000,000 square miles, and a heat of over 7,000° F. and only enclosed by a frail crust of about forty miles in depth, would require at least all the open chimneys that are known to exist in the shape of active volcanoes upon the globe. But these active volcanoes are neither numerous nor regularly distributed, and the disturbed and explosive elements might someday be found unwilling to go very far out of the way to accommodate any portion of the outside world. A certain able but eccentric geologist tells us that a large portion of the active volcanoes have been extinguished by the sea running into the crater and extinguishing the fire, and, to show that he is serious, he intimates that there are men in New England who, for a suitable compensation, would undertake to construct a subterranean tunnel from the Mediterranean to Mount Vesuvius, to let in a stream of water of sufficient magnitude to quench that infernal monster. He thus resembles the incompetent engineer, sitting on the safety valve of his engine, to increase the pressure of steam, and if the igneous theory is correct, we may expect to see our globe torn to pieces at any time by some blundering scientist.

But fortunately we are not in such a precarious situation. There are other and better reasons to explain the causes of the existence of volcanoes and earthquakes. We are told that volcanoes belch forth volumes of dense smoke with lurid flames and ashes in enormous quantities, cinders, scoria and mud, steam, sand, lapilli, rocks of various dimensions, and lava; and it is somewhat remarkable that the lava is not very thoroughly melted. These materials must have come from reservoirs where they severally had an existence; they could not have been brought from any place where they did not exist, and we often see that when such reservoirs have become exhausted, the mountain is swallowed up in the vacancy thus produced. Moreover many of the substances thrown out are combustibles. Why have they not been consumed at a heat that may be 10,000° ? Smoke and cinders are the result of the combustion of

organic substances, and certainly no organic substance can have existed at a temperature that will melt granite rock. These substances must have been the results of evolution after granite was formed. Neither could there have been any water or mud. The force which throws out rocks at the distance of 6,000 feet above the summit of Cotopaxi, which is nearly 18,000 feet high, must necessarily be backed by something more permanent than a liquid globe of molten granite, as the explosive force in a volcano must act in the same manner as it does in a gun; it must have a solid resisting basis to receive the recoil. It is therefore clear that the origin of volcanoes must be looked for amongst the great fires that are kindled in cavities in the interior of earth's crust, and such cavities have been discovered. But these cavities have a solid bottom, and far below them is the region of undisturbed repose. The causes of volcanoes can be found in the oil-bearing rocks, which, according to Prof. Denton, are of great thickness and vast extent, and some of the petroleum shales are so rich, that sixty gallons of oil may be distilled from a single ton.¹

As the igneous theory does not explain the existence of volcanoes, so does it not account for the phenomena of earthquakes. If earthquakes are caused by the quaking of an interior globe of molten lava, why do they not extend simultaneously all over the earth's surface? How can they be limited in extent? Space forbids us to go into a detailed account of the supposed causes of earthquakes, given by various authors, and which, on account of their absurdity, are more amusing than instructive. Some say that vast cavities exist between the rolling fiery mass and the superincumbent crust, and, from some impending cause, large rocks weighing millions of tons, become detached and fall into the boiling flood below, where they sink to the centre because the specific gravity of solid granite rock is greater than that of a homogeneous molten mass of the same material. But if so, how could the solid granite crust ever have been formed, and would not in such a case the interior of the globe be solid,

¹ [Cf. Apollonius on the myth surrounding Mount Etna:

Perhaps I have done a foolish thing for it was my intention to recall you to more scientific and truer explanations than the poetical myths given by the vulgar of Etna; and I have let myself be drawn into a eulogy of myths. However, the digression has not been without a charm of its own, for the myth which we repudiate is not one of Aesop's stories, but belongs to the class of dramatic stories which fill the mouths of our poets. For they say that a certain Typho or Enceladus lies bound under the mountain, and in his death agony breathes out this fire that we see.

Now I admit that giants have existed, and that gigantic bodies are revealed all over earth when tombs are broken open; nevertheless I deny that they ever came into conflict with the gods; at the most they violated their temples and statues, and to suppose that they scaled the heaven and chased away the gods therefrom — this it is madness to relate and madness to believe.

Nor can I any more respect that other story, though it is more reverent in its tone, to the effect that Hephaestus attends to his forge in Etna, and that there is there an anvil on which he smites with his hammer; for there are many other mountains all over the earth that are on fire, and yet we should never be done with it if we assigned to them giants and gods like Hephaestus.

What then is the explanation of such mountains?

It is this: the earth by affording a mixture of asphalt and sulphur, begins to smoke of its own nature, but it does not yet belch out fire; if however it be cavernous and hollow and there be spirit or force circulating underneath it, it at once lifts up into the air as it were a beacon-fire; this flame gathers force, and gets hold of all around, and then like water it streams of the mountains and flows into the plains, and the mass of fire reaches the sea, forming mouths, out of which it issues, like the mouths of rivers.

And as for the place of the Pious Ones [*i.e.*, Brothers Amphinomos and Anapias who carried their parents out of a burning house, but received divine protection when the stream of lava suddenly divided itself], around whom the fire flowed, we will allow that such exists even here; but at the same time let us not forget that the whole earth affords secure ground for the doers of holiness, and that the sea is safely traversed not only by people in ships but even by people attempting to swim.

— Philostratus, *Apollonius of Tyana*, Vol. I, Bk. V, § 16-17, pp. 499-502; tr. Conybeare]

and the outside liquid fire? But without entering into the details of such absurdities, we find in the exterior shell sufficient inherent powers to explain all the superficial tremblings and vibrations that ever occurred, and when the electro-magnetic currents of our earth are better studied the causes of earthquakes will also be understood, just as the causes of thunder and lightning in the atmosphere are no longer unknown.

The author then proceeds to speak about the positive and negative, male and female, material and spiritual elements and forces. He shows that they pervade the mineral, vegetable and animal kingdoms of our world. He says that there exists another force, more powerful than electricity, which he calls Aura, and which we suppose to be identical with the Ākāśa of the Occultists. If it were not for a continuation of these forces, the revolutions of our world would cease and motion be changed into inactivity. We must keep in view that these counter elements diffuse themselves throughout all things, and have done so from all eternity. The forces which pre-existed and gave form to the accretions of materialized particles, being invisible to us, may be properly termed the spiritual essences (elementals) that exist in all forms of matter, through which they express themselves to our vision, and if such forces may exist separate and independent of the visible material forms, then it follows that such forms or aggregated atoms do not add to the original power of the pre-existing spiritualized forces. Thus all forms or aggregations of matter must have had a spiritual (elemental) essence, which acted as a preordinate¹ cause for the production of form, and if so there must have been a spiritual essence or form to the globe we inhabit, containing all the forces that now exist in the structure; and the particles which compose our world have taken their respective places in accordance with these pre-existing forces, and these forces have been governed and directed by an intelligent power in a spiritual condition, exercising Will.

Magnetism and Electricity are the two great positive and negative powers in nature. They are contained in all substances and are evolved from the mineral kingdom. The original granite contains all that there is in the universe. Hence it will be difficult to find the dividing line between matter and force; for both are one and the same indivisible element (the positive and negative poles of one eternal principle). Aura is evidently an element that bears a very close relationship to the above named forces, and being far more sublimated in its character, it acts in various capacities, where the magnetic and electric fluids would be powerless. The latter act on a lower plane, but there are higher duties which call for more refined and etherealized powers, and it has long been understood that the human organization was pervaded by an element variously called nerve aura or odyllic force, which occupies the brain and extends to the remotest corners of the physical body. This etherealized essence is the offspring of the Electro-magnetic fluid, and frequently displays its glories in the polar regions of this hemisphere and is known as the Aurora Borealis.

The author discusses these various forces and their correlations at length, and gradually introduces us into the realm of life. He shows that wherever effects have been produced, there must have been causes adequate to produce them. He shows that

¹ [predestined]

the law of eternal progress pervades all nature, and that in the course of ages our material globe will become more refined and be the fit abode for a superior race. He examines the nature of gravitation, and shows that it is only the feeble arm of those universal Electro-magnetic forces that pervade all nature. Gravity is no traveller, rushing from planet to planet, to draw heavenly bodies from their predestined courses. It is only an inferior force inherent in matter and a condition of the same, changed, counteracted and superseded by superior forces, as we see every day in the growth of plants and animals, the rising of vapour, etc. Each material aggregation and molecular organization has a pre-existing elemental form, and each elemental form has within itself the inherent forces to attract the grosser materials, by which it manifests itself to the eyes of men. Matter attracts matter, and a sympathetic cord exists between the orbs of space; but the powers which have been ascribed wrongly to gravitation belong to Electro-magnetic influences, and gravitation cannot exist until there is a mutual relationship established between two material bodies, one apparently exerting power over the other in consequence of superior size and density. The larger body attracts the smaller one, and there can be no particular geometrical centre of attraction with gravitation any more than with cohesion, but that force lies in the general direction of the largest accumulation of particles, as is proven by pendulum experiments in the vicinity of mountains. All ponderable substances will be held upon the surface of our globe, whether it may be a solid globe and have but one exterior surface, or a spherical shell with both convex and concave surfaces. If you are on the inner surface of the spherical shell of our globe, you are so far as gravity is concerned, as much upon the upper side as you would be upon the exterior of a solid globe. There can be found nothing attached to the geometrical centre of our globe, that should make it a central moving point, from which gravity should proceed, any more than there is to any other point in space. Neither can the supposed gravity of the Moon be the cause of the tides, as the author explains.

The author next enquires into the nature of the sun, and demonstrates that the sun cannot be a fiery mass of molten matter. He enquires into the sources of light and proves that the emanation theory is wrong, and that the theory of undulations can only hold good within the limits of our atmosphere. All these theories present innumerable difficulties, but when we fall back upon the development theory, we find a harmonious explanation. All globes must have commenced their career in a feeble, infantile condition, as regards light and heat, very gradually developing out of that condition to a more advanced state, and hence it is that all globes or planets in all their several situations, are receiving just the amount they need, and no more than will correspond with their several circumstances.

The development of their inherent powers are such as to modify the solar influences, and these solar influences are simply caused by the Electro-magnetic relations existing between these globes and the sun. In the sun we behold an unfolding of those inherent powers that we possess, and always have possessed in a latent condition, that will ultimately render us less dependent upon the great orb of day, because we are developing the same powers that exist in the sun in all their magnificence and glory. And if it is conceded that we have unfolded in any sense of the word, that we have travelled a portion of the journey from the electric condition of the new formed moon, to the resplendent magnetic glory of the full grown sun, what shall hinder us

from accomplishing the entire distance and becoming like the sun entirely dependent upon our own resources for light and heat? There can be no doubt, but the wisdom and power, that contrived the machinery of the solar system, can ultimately furnish the means for lighting and warming each planet independently, because we have the very same elements that are contained in the sun.

Electricity is expressive of coldness and inactivity. Magnetism is a synonym of life, heat, and activity. When the negative element becomes permeated to any extent with the positive, it becomes subject to change and becomes progressive; for the positive and negative, being male and female, reproduce themselves or their likeness, and whenever the two elements come into contact, from that moment change and progress commence. So if worlds in an infantile condition are almost purely electric and negative, then there can be very little magnetic or positive element within them with which the great fountain and head of these powers can affinitize, in order to produce those activities and frictionizing processes, that result in heat and light. Hence we perceive that Mercury being younger and less developed, is, of course more electrical and has more of cold, darkness and inactivity, and less positive active elements to assimilate with those contained in the sun; but she has some advantage in point of distance, and that fact assists in modifying her light and heat to suit her condition, and the quantity and quality of light, as well as heat depends almost exclusively upon the conditions of the several planets.

The only reason why darkness arises upon that side of our earth which is opposite the sun, is simply because the positive active elements of magnetism and aura, are not sufficiently elaborated to produce the necessary activities independently of the energizing influences of the powers contained in the sun; but in a billion or more years, when our orbit is extended beyond the one in which Jupiter now travels, and the annual revolution of the earth shall equal twelve of our years instead of one, the feeble light producing elements upon this globe shall be developed to that condition, in which they will possess the power to furnish the necessary illumination upon every side and in all latitudes. This is already the case with other higher developed planets. Uranus and Neptune, according to the conditions existing on earth, could experience a change of season only once in respectively 84 and 164 years, and these changes must therefore occur on those planets independent of solar influences.

If all the elements of light and heat exist upon our earth, and if it is shown by reasoning from analogies of nature, that the interior of the shell of our earth is in a more developed condition than the exterior, the question of lighting and warming the interior surface of this shell will find its natural solution. Furthermore, light and darkness as appreciable conditions upon our earth are rendered so to us by the peculiar character of the construction of our eyes and are only relative, and a future race in a higher state of development will be dependent on higher conditions which we cannot comprehend, because we have not experienced the same; while they may exist all the same in that beautiful world yet unexplored by mortal man.

Our entire physical organization is inherited from this earth; the earth is our parent, both male and female, father and mother, and there can exist nothing in our physical organisation that does not exist upon earth. We may therefore properly consider the earth in some sense of the word an animal organization of vast dimensions. She

has functions analogous to the animal race, the same inherent powers of locomotion around her axis and another around the sun. We have a net-work of electric wires in our system, constituting our nervous system; the earth has Electro-magnetic currents travelling in all directions. We have a circulation of blood, and so has the earth a circulation of waters by rivers and tides, and the winds are active agents to assist in the continual change. There are currents in the ocean as well as in the interior of the earth. In the animal organization there are constant currents passing to and from the interior, through apertures prepared for that purpose, and the great parent must have an analogous organization, and be supplied with it in the interior, and the same elements and forces which exist here, must exist there. We generate the power by which we perform our movements within ourselves, and so does the earth; and she did not require the arm of an omnipotent being to start the machine by applying some peculiar kind of a force, that is not recognised within the realms of the natural universe, for the genius and wisdom, that could contrive and keep in operation a perpetual motion for so many long ages by natural causes, must have been abundantly competent to have brought to bear forces that would have started the machine within the range of natural causes also.

The interior surface of the earth, being in a more highly developed condition than the exterior, has become capable of generating its own light upon the same principle as the more developed planets, and the displays of aural light that are so frequently beheld emanating from the arctic circle, have thus far baffled all attempts of scientific minds to unfold their mysteries; while an aperture at the pole through which this light radiates to our exterior surface fully explains the phenomenon.

The author's views about the sun spots, of the invisible planets existing beyond the orbit of Uranus and of the world's builders have recently been to some extent corroborated in some of the *Fragments of Occult Truth* and other teachings given in the Theosophist, and they bear internal evidence of having been derived from the same source. Whether this view is correct or not, they show certainly a high grade of intelligence, and their conclusions are perfectly logical; but, like other works of a similar character this book has appeared, before the world was wise enough to understand it, and it is therefore known and appreciated by only comparatively few. The author is now an old man but he still confidently expects (so we are told) to be one of the first ones to enter the interior of the earth through what is known as Cpt. Syme's hole, and we hope he will do so, if not in his present incarnation, then in the next, as a member of the sixth race, forerunners of which have already made their appearance upon this, the exterior surface of our hollow globe.

