

that when equalisation is nearly established as between the sun and that portion of the earth which is turned towards it, the influence of the sun is powerfully exerted on that part which is averted, the result being constant evolution.* It will be found also that what seems repulsion of the magnet is really always attraction, or excitation; the same idea will supersede that of the conduction and induction of electricity.

Such are a few of the many changes which will distinguish the century on which we are soon to enter. My readers may be sceptical, but they will live to see some of the changes themselves. Civilization has been pre-ordained from the beginning as being man's proper state in this world, and what I have endeavoured to depict is but the logical outcome of powerful if soluble forces now at work.

To what extent will New Zealand be affected by all these changes? It is of course difficult to say precisely. But we may rest assured that our country will not be a laggard in the race of progress. The changes I have endeavoured to outline will affect the whole world more or less, and there is no reason to doubt that New Zealand will maintain that reputation for social advancement which has already given her a high place among nations. Of course perfect freedom of trade will solve the question of Federation—both Imperial and Colonial. Her vast resources will enable

her to carry an immense population; in fact, at the end of the twentieth century she should contain fully 10,000,000 of people. An express electric train will run to and fro twice daily from Auckland to Wellington. A splendid electric ferry service will convey passengers across Cook Straits, and the "iron horse" will speed on from Picton to the Bluff. The goldmining, gum and timber industries will have practically ceased. What little gold will be found in New Zealand a hundred years hence will come from deep-level quartz veins. Frozen meat, wool, butter, grain, cereals of all sorts, and iron will be the chief items of export. Where are now primitive mountain fastnesses will be picturesque roads and splendid hotels in consequence of the immense tourist traffic. The Maori race will not have become extinct, but will be becoming absorbed in the white population. The colony will include the Cook Islands.

The reader who does not believe I have exaggerated the potentialities of the coming century—or should I say the potentialities of human nature?—will agree that New Zealand, and indeed the world generally, will be much better as a place of abode a hundred years hence. But I would point out in conclusion that our highest aim should be to leave our country and the world better for our having lived. In this will be found the highest degree of human happiness now attainable, and by this means alone can we make the lot of those who are to come after us better and brighter than our own.

*See "Some Unrecognised Laws of Nature" by Singer and Behrens.—John Murray, London.

