

The Mississippi valley will be something beautiful to look upon after awhile. It is the most marvelous valley in the world. That of the Nile is a petty thing compared with it. All the valley of the Danube will be as nothing compared with it, and within its area will be two hundred millions of people who will not only dictate this continent, but they will come very nearly dictating the whole world.

The Infinite Wireless.

We have all been struck with wonder at the achievements in wireless telegraphy. There is something uncanny about it. A ship is laboring in a storm hundreds of miles away from shore, or its machinery is disabled and it is lying practically helpless on the waters, when to the nearest port comes a message from that ship, telling of its situation, calling for help, or saying that the ship is riding the storm splendidly and that it will be in port on a certain day. That links man almost with infinity. It shows such a triumph of mind over matter as the world never saw before; and still, wireless telegraphy, we take it, is as yet but a practically unknown science, for some men in Omaha have decided that so potent an agent ought to be more practical in its presentations; and so one man there, one Dr. Frederick Millener, has built a three-ton motor and he runs it by wireless backwards and forwards, makes it haul eight or nine tons and obey him as a steam engine does the engineer, by a touch of the button. He manipulates it at will. The possibilities of such an invention are amazing. It does not require any track; it does not require any surveyed road. The machine is built, the man in charge touches the button and starts off across the desert propelled by a power which is measureless, and which still seems to be under the control of man as much as was the genie or the jinn that the ancients talked about, slaves of an irresistible power and executing certain men's wills with a swiftness incalculable. At once the thought comes to a person, Will not this, after all, be the solving of the navigation of the air? The great problem now is to support an airship and at the same time make it so that it can carry the weight of an engine and a gasoline tank. If the airship can be so regulated that it can call on the wireless for its power, why so soon as the science is understood, all a man will have to do will be to have a balloon big enough to overcome the weight of his own body; then enlist the wireless to his help and he goes to see his girl two hundred miles away, spends the evening with her until a quarter to eight (which is two a. m.) and gets back in time to do his regular day's work the next day.

Men have performed great feats; there have been great generals; there have been great statesmen; men have written lovely things which are an enchantment to read; but the great triumph of man is that he can send out into the viewless air a viewless message which will carry his thoughts wherever he wills and bring back to him the thoughts of others. But this last achievement takes away all that airy, intangible something and comes down to practical life and pushes machinery that carries ore or passengers or freight of any kind and makes it come and go at his bidding. That old chap who wrote that man is but a little lower than the angels, either wrought better than he knew or he was a brighter man than we ever gave him credit for being.

Science is very generous to men. As its heights and depths are being explored it gives up more and more secrets and every new secret seems to be something deeper and higher and grander and more splendid than anything it ever gave before.

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