

[Elihu Burritt

Higher Law and Mission of Commerce, 1862 Lecture fragment, Published 1869]

[either page one or two, not numbered in original]

There are those present before me who will doubtless see the first morning sun of the twentieth century. Some of the youngest of them may live to walk the distance of fifteen or twenty years into that second millennial—to walk with its rising generation—to talk with the prospective fathers of men and women who shall see the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They will tell those children and heirs of that distant future of the hopes and experiences of these closing decades. They will link to theirs the chain of living-memories, reaching far back beyond this present into the early years of our century. They will recount the history of its great struggles with the barbarous genius of an older antiquity; of its decisive battles and victories for freedom, civilization and Christianity. They will dwell, with gladly reminiscence, upon that crowning glory of this our age—the development of Christian Philanthropy into the mightiest force in human society. They will speak of its industrial organisations; of the beautiful reaching of its goodwill and good works to man; of the minute and wonderful divisions of its labor of love; so that every form of worry, suffering, and sorrow, every type of ignorance and vice, every shade and region of moral darkness, had assigned to it a busy, hoping, praying association of men and women working for its amelioration and enlightenment.

The patrimony which this century will bequeath to the next, will be practically more than we inherited from the thousand years preceding our own. What a world of wealth shall we hand over to that unremote [sic] posterity! wealth

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from the Confederate Government & [indecipherable] Slidell and Mason, at London and Paris. But, from further enquiries after adroit engravers in England, France and Belgium, and from a frequent display of Confederate bank-notes to persons from whence he sought this [crossed out word] information, [crossed out word] it was generally concluded that his only mission was [crossed out word] to add clandestinely ~~to the~~ [crossed out in original] a few thousand counterfeit

notes to the paper money already [crossed out word] circulating in the Confederate States. Then there were English sailors who had been captured in the blockade-runners, and were going home to engage in a new venture upon the sea. There were Southern men also who were going out to officer or man the ships building in Great Britain for the Confederate service. A proper and usual proportion of the Irish element, male and female, old and young, was mixed in with the rest, to make up one of those motley communities that may be found on board of any of the screw-steamers bound from New York to Liverpool, especially since the commencement of the Great Secession Revolution in America.