

own arms against each other to the utter destruction of all friendly intercourse & mutual aid. Had they been formed under a Christian dispensation, they might have composed among themselves a peaceful & harmonious society of nations. Under a wide union, strongly cemented, they might have survived unto the present day, & saved that land of Capricorn memory, from barbarous profanation.

Since then, the world had undergone a great, an universal change. Nations that had been blessed with the illuminations of knowledge, fell into a second intellectual chaos. Proud Babylon, whose temples & observatories would fain have stormed the heavens, was laid low, in one wide field of ruin; and seemed, in the gloom of ~~destruction~~ surrounding desolation, to perpetuate the brutality of her once haughty Nebuchadnezzar. Susa, Persepolis & Palmyra were debilitated by their former splendours; and their deathlike silence was interrupted by <sup>33</sup>naught but the howlings of ferocious beasts, & the wild cry of the prophetic owl. Jerusalem became a wilderness, & Carthage levelled with the dust. Places that had boasted of their grandeur & magnificence, were known only by the few relics of brass & marble, that lay scattered here & there on their desolated surface. The whole earth, from the rivers of India to the pillars of Hercules, where civilization had ever traced a solitary step, appeared to be reduced to primeval darkness. Like Rome, after her conflagration by the Gauls, it had again to pass through the stage of adolescence.

On this side that great wreck of intellect, new nations have arisen. Human nature has resumed its ascendancy, & mental & physical resources have been developed. Such governments as received their forms, without the impress of some elementary principles, &