

The Hon. Mayor, Kansas City, U.S.A., January 1, 2001.

My Dear Sir: Fifty-two thousand Kansas City, Kansans send you greeting and wish you a happy New Year. The past century has brought the world many blessings, nearly all of which were unknown January 1, 1801. What are now common, everyday affairs were then either unknown, or were such luxuries as the rich only could enjoy. The person who would have prophesied that by January 1, 1901, steam engines would be used to drive great plants of machinery, or pull great railroad trains across the continent, or propel great vessels across the ocean, would have been stoned to death or considered a harmless lunatic; but had he added at that time that the world would be able to send messages across continents, or under oceans, or converse by word of mouth a thousand miles through the telephone, or that cities could be lighted and cars propelled by electricity, or that great cities would be built in what was the great American desert, or in the Rocky mountains, he would have been confined in an insane asylum. "A true prophet is not without honor save in his own country," is understood in our day as applicable to a person who can foretell events and conditions. Notwithstanding the manifold blessings we now enjoy in addition to the railroads, telephones, telegraphs, electric lights and intricate machinery for manufacturing all kinds of modern wants of men, I see in the next 100 years the discovery and propagation of new varieties of fruits, vegetables, fishes, fowls and animals, and now congratulate your honor and your millions of constituents at the mouth of the Kaw upon the vast improvements you have made in 100 years. Your consolidation with Kansas City, Mo., and other cities lying nearby, some of which have come into existence long after this date have simplified municipal government; one mayor, one council, one police department, one fire department, and so on has saved the people great sums of money in taxes. The county governments of what is now Wyandotte county, Kas., and Jackson County, Mo., in your day is merged into the municipality of Kansas City, U.S.A. Your forty-story buildings constructed entirely of steel and glass; your paved streets; your perfect sewer systems, would delight our modern city dads. The absence in your city of contagious diseases, paupers, loafers, thieves and kindred pests, make it a veritable paradise to live in.

As your means of conveyance are entirely electrical and pneumatic and run upon perfect systems, you have no health-dangering menaces to sicken your people.

We have known of electricity and its uses for a number of years, but have never discovered it as you have done for the benefit of all the people. You are able to generate power from the river currents, the waves of the lakes, and ocean billows; the falling rains and snow; the rising heat and vapor; the summer breezes and winter blasts; besides innumerable other agencies not known to my generation. You have learned how to operate machinery by applying the expansion and contraction of solid bodies caused by changes of temperature. You store up the heat of the sun's rays when needed for physical comforts and move it from place to place at will with a minimum cost.

Your locomotives move so rapidly that the friction of the air on the boilers generates steam sufficient to furnish the speed; to double the speed you have constructed flat cars one thousand miles long with tracks built upon them, and on these tracks trains run at 300 miles per hour, thus doubling the rate as the lower car moves in the same direction, at the same speed, causing passengers to travel at the rate of 600 miles an hour. In some instances you have doubled and trebled this speed by building more tracks on the still higher cars, and have proven that almost any speed can be attained.

We have experimented only a little with airships and know little of them, but they are common conveyances with you. The motive power of your airships is generated by the speed of the vessel. At the rear end of the ship is a small circular propeller that is formed to revolve by the air that gushes from the front through a funnel shaped tube; when the air is strong or the speed is great the air is collected in the large end of the funnel and is conveyed backwards with force great enough to furnish power to the propeller, and thus the speed is placed at any rate desirable.

Your chemical laboratories have furnished you means for controlling storms, hurricanes and cyclones.

The terrific heat that causes atmospheric disturbances is stored for future use and the storm is prevented. The heat is often used by farmers and gardeners to prevent frost from endangering their crops. Your chemical laboratories have also taught you how to extract foodstuffs from the atmosphere. For instance, you have ascertained what elements

from the air are contained in a potato or an apple; you expert chemists have learned how to take these elements from the air and product artificially fine tubers and fruits and all kinds of vegetables.

You do indeed live in the glory age of the world. Your scientists have so improved optical appliances that a person is enabled to see the bottom of the sea. From the bottom of the ocean, untold millions of gold have been secured and thousands of varieties of animal life have been discovered. The total wealth of the world to-day could not produce such palatable viands as the commonest people of your age eat every day. Shark fins, birds' nests, terrapin, fish eyes and other much sought dishes that the very rich are supposed to live on at this time would be fed to the swine of your city. At your banquet following your second inaugurations in April 2001, nectar, far sweeter than honey, will be drank from diamond goblets. The diamond mines of the world will give up such large stones that punch bowls will be made of them, and the nectar will be made by distilling dew extracted from Jupiter's rays. It will cost some money in your day, probably as much as "mountain de" does now. The viands with which your banquet table will be spread will come from the remotest parts of the world, and some will be extracted from the glimmering light of the stars. At that time your chief signal station officer will wave his congratulations to the "man in the moon," while you will receive a wink from each star.

Your scientists can see down into the earth at will as well as the oceans. The X-rays will be so improved that miners can look into the mountains and see the gold and by electrical appliances melt the mineral and run it out of its hiding place through the opening of the X-rays. Thus ocean, earth and air will be entirely subjected to man's domination. On the arid plains of our county great ship and irrigation canals will be constructed. The cooling waters of the North will float the commerce of the county in those canals in the summer time, and the ward waters of the South will warm the atmosphere of the land through which these canals run in the winter. Your method of causing the water to run different ways in the same canal at different times is supposed to be accomplished by electrical magnetic attraction. This attraction is caused by accumulating great quantities of electricity first in the North, then in the South.

The friction of the water in the canal along its sides and in the bottom generates much of the electricity needed. It is almost automatic and resembles somewhat the idea of perpetual motion. Fine forests cover the mountain ranges, where, in our time are barren rocks. Fine farms and splendid stock you will have on what are now barren wastes.

Schools, churches and libraries you will have everywhere, and all will be free. The child of 10 years will have more knowledge than the average adult of to-day. I am an agnostic and am always looking for the sunny spots of life. I believe the human race is growing wiser and better, and that he who is chosen by the voters of Kansas City U.S.A., as mayor 100 years hence is a man of ability and virtue, with a heart large enough to take in all of his people, and that the people, far and near, will say: "Great is Kansas City, U.S.A., and the honorable mayor is her prophet."

Longfellow is my favorite poet, and I believe with him that

*"Life is real, life is earnest, and the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returneth, was not written of the soul."*

That, though I shall cease ere many years to look upon dear old Kansas City through material eyes, I shall exchange them for more perfect ones and shall continue to watch her growth and prosperity and shall ever love her and her people.

In conclusion, let the little mayor of the little city of Kansas City, Kas. shake hands through a century with the great and good mayor of the great city of Kansas City, Kas.

January 1, 1901

R.L. MARSHMAN

Mayor of Kansas City, Kas.