

A CREED AND A PRAYER

BY WALTER B. LYDENBERG

In what do I believe?

In strength? In such as I have.

In wealth? As I can use it.

In fame? It is pride.

In enjoyment? As it is given to me.

In philosophy? It has taught me nothing.

In science? It is but knowledge.

In knowledge? In what I know.

In the world? As I know it, as I feel it, as I am in touch with it.

In death? It will come.

In life? It can not die. .

In my self? In my self.

I, only I, am; all else is I.

Matter is not matter. It is electrons, energy, electricity.

It is in space; but space when? It is in time; but time where?

It is infinitely divisible; but it can not be that. It is infinitely extensible; but it can not be that.

Energy is electrons. All is electrons. It is material; it is immaterial. It is spiritual; it is physical. It is only as it is known; and I only can know it. It exists as such only as I live to make it exist. Without me it does not exist. It is mine.

I am electrons, material and immaterial, spiritual and physical.

What I see, what I touch, what I hear is material, physical; what I know, what I feel, what I desire is immaterial, spiritual. I, only I, am; and the spiritual, the physical, the material, the immaterial, they are I (and they call it soul).

I see, but with eyes only. I touch, but the touch that I touch with is my touch alone.

I see, but in part only.

O for an eye that can pierce the infinite, a touch that can count the pulse of energy's birth! O for a vision beyond the eye!

I am electrons (they call it energy, desire, ambition, conflict, fear, hope, faith, love).

O for an energy that can reach its goal, a desire that shall desire no more, an ambition that shall be satisfied, a conflict that shall be victory, a fear that is joy, a hope that shall be fed, a faith that is sure, a love whose encircling arms shall forever endure!

O that I could feel beyond myself, beyond energy!

I am energy, desire, ambition, conflict, fear, hope, faith, love; but insufficient.

I care not for electrons. They are fictions.

The eyes of man are never satisfied.

I yearn for the fulfilment of the unseen, of the hoped-for, of my aspirations, for the consummation of my self, of my soul, for the rock that is higher than I. I am impelled by desire, by electrons, by the irresistible. I am impelled by my self, my hopes, my longings, my ambitions, my imaginations, my beliefs, my love, my pride, my soul. Fulfil these, and I am fulfilled.

How many before me have laid themselves down to sleep!

Who has found the summation of hope, ambition, longing, pride, love? What heart has satisfied its cravings?

I am one with eternity.

O Eternal One! O My Soul! O Infinite One! O Greater than Me!

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, Eternal One. Eternal One, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

I wait for the Eternal One, my soul doeth wait, and in His word do I hope.

My soul waiteth for the Eternal One more than watchmen wait for the morning.

I cry unto the Eternal One; I say, Thou art my refuge.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light upon my path.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.

My delight is in the law of the Eternal One; and on His law do I meditate day and night.