

The Hope for a New Age<sup>1</sup>

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[Outline]

Thanksgiving expressed in terms of hope.

Electro-motive Force

Water Power

Momentum of a Stream

Same in human nations

Individual

Social

Historic form of expressing this great social hope

a. Supernatural intervention

b. Natural and inevitable revolution

c. Spontaneous development

19<sup>th</sup> century {??}{??}

{??} is running = {??} in darkness or light.

Depends upon

a. The clearness with which we see the forces.

b. The unswerving singleness of purpose with which we cooperate to direct the forces towards a great new hope.

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<sup>1</sup> This manuscript consists of six half-size pages held together with a straight pin. The contents appear to be early attempts to develop a sermon on "The Hope for a New Age." Each page of the manuscript is individuated in this transcription between horizontal lines. On inspection, the pages as pinned together appeared to be out of order. This transcription presents the pages in a more sensible order with three parts: (1) an outline sketch (1 page); (2) A first version of the sketch of the sermon (2 pages); (3) A second version of the sketch of the sermon (3 pages).

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[Version 1]

### The Hope for A New Age

The hope for a new age is a common characteristic of mankind.

It is an expression of the electro-motive force of mankind, its momentum. The tremendous power with which the human race hauls itself forward.

The formulation of this impulse, the creative impulse of man, has left its record in the thought of man, as well as in its changing history.

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Some have expected the new age for which they hoped to come as a gift from God. They have been so pessimistic that they have seen no possibility whatever of any good coming out of the world as they saw. Clearly if anything happened it must be from God. It must be supernatural.

2. Some have believed that the new hope will be realized by some forces of spontaneous combustion. Like Micawber in Dicken's tale<sup>2</sup>, they are waiting for something.

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[Version 2]

### Hope for A New Age

The power of the human to hope is one of the most striking facts in life. We measure an electric current by its electromotive power, i.e., the power to overcome resistance. We measure the strength of a current of water in terms of horsepower, and its ability to overcome resistance. Any moving body acquires momentum, measured by the relation of its weight to its velocity.

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<sup>2</sup> Wilkins Micawber is a clerk in Charles Dickens' 1850 novel, David Copperfield. He is identified with the belief that "something will turn up."

We find this same kind of a tendency to haul ourselves forward into the tomorrow, into that strange and alluring world of possibility, that is forever baffling us, and yet forever luring us out.

This momentum of our lives is what determines our vital energy, our electro-motive force, our horsepower. It is a quite wonderful

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and sometimes quite a terrible thing to contemplate. Under ordinary circumstances it flows on quite unrecognized. We perform our daily tasks, sometimes overcoming enormous amounts of resistance, and find ourselves plunging through obstacles that seemed insurmountable. Sometimes we get into places where the resistance is unusually high, our very life is endangered. And then the most interesting thing happens. Two little glands linked away in the flesh near the kidneys begin to throw into the entire system a liquid that transforms us into supermen immediately. The more desperate our circumstances are, the more our

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hope abounds.