

Transcribed Excerpts from "The Marvelous Vogue of the Automobile," August 24, 1899

"The Marvelous Vogue of the Automobile."

Fulfillment of Mother Shipton's Prophecy That "Carriages Without Horses Shall Go."

NEW YORK CITY (Special).--The foretold time when "carriages without horses shall go" has come, and the end of the century finds the self-propelling vehicle an established factor of every-day life. This is demonstrated by the organization of the Automobile club of America for the development of the motor-carriage as a source of sport and pleasure, the formation of a gigantic trust for the commercial exploitation of electric street traction in this country, and the laying of plans for an international race between French and American automobiles...

So readily do people adapt themselves to the marvelous contrivances which modern inventive ingenuity has devised, that the automobile, but a brief time ago unknown, no longer arouses more than a passing curiosity. And yet it is one of the most interesting of latter-day inventions of the annihilation of space and time. In spite of its comparative youth, it may be found everywhere--in Paris, France, and in Paris, Ky. It adapts itself to a multitude of needs...It hauls packages and passengers. It runs over country-roads and city asphalt...Altogether the automobile, in its various manifestations and uses, is an exceedingly versatile and useful thing. In some respects it has threatened to supersede the horse, that faithful animal...The horse is still with us, and the automobile promises to occupy a very large place in the activities of men, but there is no warfare between the two. It is not possible that the horse will disappear ... There will always be a field for the horse...So that in celebrating the vogue of the automobile there is no reason to chant an elegy of the horse. There are many who will take to the new form of propulsion; there are others who will never forsake the horse.

Some conception of the marvelous expansion of the automobile idea may be gathered from the casual announcement that a contract has recently been made for the manufacture of 4200 electric vehicles, or automobiles, involving an expenditure of over \$8,000,000. That is a large amount for investment, especially in a new enterprise, but if it proves anything, it proves that the automobile is no inconsiderable factor in modern life, and that the making and using of electric cabs and carts have assumed vast proportions...

For the future, the automobile holds out the promise of a city practically free from the maddening street noises that make modern urban existence more or less a torture. Cobble pavements are laid to resist metal tires and the pounding of steel-shod horses. With every vehicle motor-driven, and every wheel pneumatic-tired, all pavements can be of asphalt. Not

only will the rumbling of heavy trucks and the clatter of hoof-beats disappear, but there will be no more tracks to cut up the streets, since electric omnibuses...take the place of street railways. Having already conquered the rail, electricity will then have made itself master of the highway as well. Rapid transit for long distances being supplied by electric trains in clean, cool brilliantly-lighted subways, the elevated roads will be no more. The removal of the horse from the streets will not only make them noiseless, but will practically solve the problem of street-cleaning, and greatly improve the sanitary conditions of urban life, reducing the amount of street refuse to a minimum. With clean, smooth thoroughfares, through which swift, air-shod, easy-riding vehicles dart noiselessly, it will no longer be necessary to seek the country for rest and quiet...