

BY ORDER  
HILARY 1901



A MINISTERIAL BULLETIN ·  
HILARY 1901

## Of the Palantyr Concern of San Francisco

*Being Bulletin №1 of the Hilary Term, Wherein the Office Sets Down What Is Lately Known of a Foreign Concern Trading in Seeing-Stones and the Provisioning of His Majesty's Armies, Together with Such Manifesto as the Concern Has Lately Published, and Such Reply as the Office Considers Decent*

HILARY REVISION · ANNO REGNI 1901 · BY ORDER OF HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS  
SUCCESSOR TO THE TRINITY REVISION · ANNEXED TO FIELD REPORT №2 · SERIES HR-  
1901

### EDITOR'S NOTE — BY LADY LOVELACE CARMICHAEL

*The present author having continued, by His Majesty's pleasure, in the office of WARDRESS OF THE PNEUMATIC TUBES, and the Head Archivist continuing in his second beat as CENTRAL SCRUTINIZER OF PERSONAL VAPORS, the Office has been pleased to receive, by way of the Foreign Correspondence Tube, a printed Manifesto issued by a Concern presently trading from the Californian Republic. The Concern's name, rendered as it prefers, is the Palantyr — from the Quenya, signifying a stone of distant seeing, the apparatus by which a King in the old romances might oversee his enemies and, more often than he supposed, be overseen by them.*

*The Concern conducts two trades, hand-in-hand: it gathers the Vapors of populations — willing and unwilling alike, in cities both of the Realm and beyond it — and it supplies, to the war-offices of His Majesty and of his allies, Engines of a particularly searching kind. These two trades, the Office observes, are not separable; the gathering finances the supplying, and the supplying enlarges the gathering.*

*The present Bulletin sets down four new Catalogue entries arising from the Concern's operations, an annexed Field Report (№2), and a Schedule of Petitions for Remedy. Subjects in possession of the Coronation Edition, the Michaelmas Amendment, and the Trinity Revision are advised to interleave them with this Bulletin and to disregard nothing.*

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LADY LOVELACE CARMICHAEL  
*Wardress of the Pneumatic Tubes*  
*Hilary Term, the Sixth Day, Anno Regni 1901*

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## OF THE CONCERN

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The Palantyr Concern was incorporated some twenty years past in the Californian Republic, by a body of gentlemen of philosophical disposition and considerable private means. The Concern's stated purpose, then and now, is the *civilising* of the affairs of state by the application of Articulate Engines to the great Indices of population. The Concern's actual trade is more particular: it sells, to the war-offices of allied Realms, the means of seeing into the affairs of populations — their movements, their associations, their sympathies, their refusals — and the means of acting, with despatch, upon what is seen.

The Office has long observed the practice; what is novel in this Hilary is the publication, over the hand of the Concern's Chief Officer, of a Manifesto in which the trade is no longer dissembled but on the contrary *celebrated*, and in which the Concern's role is likened, by its own author, to that of the great Roman statesmen of the late Republic. The Manifesto is annexed at Field Report № 2; the present pages catalogue the apparatus.



*"The seven Stones were given to our fathers, that we might watch and ward the realm. They were not given that the Stones might watch us."*

— ANNEXED BY AN UNDER-CLERK, FROM A ROMANCE OF THE NORTHERN LANDS; THE CITATION IS HERE PERMITTED, THE ROMANCE BEING OUT OF COPYRIGHT.

ENTRY THE SEVENTEENTH · FILED UNDER FOREIGN ENGINES

### *The Seeing-Stone of California*

An Articulate Engine of unusual capacity, manufactured by the Palantyr Concern aforesaid, and supplied chiefly to the war-offices, customs-houses, constabularies, and immigration-bureaux of allied Realms. The Stone receives, by Pneumatic Tube, the registers of every department of state to which it is connected: the rolls of taxation, the medical books, the warrants of arrest, the lists of the unemployed, the records of who has crossed which frontier and on what day. Having received, it parses; having parsed, it advises — whom to investigate, whom to detain, whom to bomb, and whom to leave alone.

The advice is given with great confidence, the Engine being incapable of any other tone. The Stone's Counsel is treated, in most ministries, as if it were the counsel of a sage; it is in fact the counsel of an averaging-machine, fed upon the registers of past suspicions and inclined, by the mathematics of its construction, to find further suspicions of the same kind in the same quarters. COUNTER-MEASURE: the Office knows of none for the foreign minister; for the private Subject, the practices of the Trinity Revision (the falsetto, the garden-shed, the printed map) are renewed in present force.

ENTRY THE EIGHTEENTH · FILED UNDER MANIFESTOES

### ***The Civilising Stone — A Posture, Not an Engine***

Properly a posture rather than a device, but catalogued here for the convenience of librarians. The Civilising Stone is the rhetorical practice, lately adopted by certain Concerns of the larger sort, of presenting the sale of Engines to the war-offices as a labour of *civilisation* — an inheritance of Athens, of Rome, of the great cathedrals — rather than as a trade in goods. The merchant, by this posture, is no longer a merchant but a statesman; the soldier, no longer a soldier but a guardian of the West; the surveilled, no longer surveilled but *stewarded*.

The Office has consulted its Latin Master upon the matter and is satisfied that the figure is not new. The Romans had a name for the merchant who claimed the toga: *mercator sapiens*, the wise trader. The Romans, in their honest moments, considered the figure ridiculous. The Office concurs. COUNTER-MEASURE: the careful reading of the Concern's published accounts, which speak the language of trade quite plainly; and the practice of *disenchantment*, which costs nothing.

ENTRY THE NINETEENTH · FILED UNDER TWIN TRADES

### ***The Loop of Apparatus and Armament***

A practice rather than a device. The Concern, having sold its Seeing-Stone to a war-office, receives in the same season a contract for the supply of further Engines — for the directing of artillery, the routing of munitions, the co-ordination of patrols. The Engines so supplied generate, in their operation, further registers; the registers are fed back into the Stone; the Stone, having been thus enlarged, is sold to a further war-office; and the loop is closed.

The Concern's revenues are, accordingly, of two kinds: it is paid for the seeing, and it is paid for the consequences of what is seen. The Office observes, with the affection of the long-watching, that this is the most lucrative loop the Concern has yet contrived, and the most difficult for any single Realm to interrupt unilaterally. COUNTER-MEASURE: Treaty (vide Schedule of Petitions for Remedy, hereunder).

***The Refusenik's Index — Foreign Volume***

An extension of the Refusenik's Index of the Trinity Revision (Catalogue, Fifteenth Entry). The present Volume concerns those Subjects whose refusals are conducted not in the parlours of the Realm but in territories the Realm and its allies surveil at a distance: the populations of certain occupied lands, the encamped peoples of the Northern plains who have lately stood against pipelines, the citizens of cities whose constabularies have purchased the Stone for the prediction of crimes not yet committed.

In each case, the Subject's refusal — to be moved, to be policed, to be parsed — is itself logged, and is itself a Vapor of value to the Stone's purchaser. The Subject who declines to be observed is, in foreign parts as in the Realm, observed with redoubled enthusiasm. The Office records, with regret, that the foreign Refusenik enjoys none of the protections of the domestic Abstainer, who at least has the post-box and the garden-shed. COUNTER-MEASURE: the practices of *solidarity* and *attribution*, hereunder.

## OF CONTINUITIES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Office reminds Subjects that the apparatus described in the present Bulletin is the latest installation of an old machinery. The intelligence-networks of the Honourable East India Company, the parish constables of Bentham's design, the Stalker's Cobblestones of the Coronation Edition, the Confessional Loop of the Michaelmas Amendment, and the Whispering Cobblestone of the Trinity Revision are all instances of the same apparatus, differing in scale and in the velocity of their parsing. The Palantyr Concern has not invented this apparatus; it has merely *consolidated* it, and given it a literary name.

The reader inclined to historical comparison is referred, by the Office's Latin Master, to the following:

- § OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY'S INTELLIGENCE: the practice of governing populations by the gathering of registers, perfected in Bengal in the eighteenth century; canonical in the Office's library; the Palantyr Concern is its present American successor.
- § OF BENTHAM'S INSPECTION-HOUSE: the doctrine that the unceasing possibility of being seen is itself the discipline; the Stone has, by means of the Pneumatic Tube, made the doctrine continental.
- § OF THE CENSUS OF 1880 AND ITS SUCCESSORS: the practice of reducing populations to indices for the convenience of statesmen; the Concern's innovation is the velocity at which this reduction may now be conducted.
- § OF THE REFUSENIK'S INDEX (TRINITY, FIFTEENTH ENTRY): here extended to foreign parts; the principle is unchanged.

## THE OFFICE'S PLAIN READING

The Office, having read the Concern's Manifesto carefully, sets down its plain reading without elaboration:

THE MANIFESTO SAYS	THE OFFICE READS
The Concern is engaged in the defence of civilisation.	The Concern sells Engines to war-offices, at a profit.
The Engines are neutral instruments of governance.	The Engines reproduce, at speed, the suspicions of those who built them.

The Concern's Chief Officer is a modern Cicero.	The Concern's Chief Officer is a merchant in a toga.
Those who object are enemies of the West.	Those who object are, in many cases, the populations being parsed.
The arrangement is the natural order of things.	The arrangement is some twenty years old and was contrived in California by gentlemen still living.

The Office offers this table not in derision but in the spirit of *plain bureaucratic prose*, of which it is the present Realm's last reliable manufacturer.

*In the Cause of Civic Obscurity, Hilary Term,*  
**LADY LOVELACE CARMICHAEL**  
*Wardress of the Pneumatic Tubes*  
  
**THE HEAD ARCHIVIST**  
*Central Scrutinizer of Personal Vapors*  
*Hilary Term, the Sixth Day, Anno Regni 1901*

OFFICE OF THE WARDRESS · OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL SCRUTINIZER · WESTMINSTER · HILARY TERM, 1901  
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