WALT WHITMAN; THE PROPHET OF THE NEW ERA

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Walt Whitman; the prophet of the new era by Will Hayes

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WALT WHITMAN

CHAPTER I

THE CHRIST OF OUR AGE

"Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh."—Mark xiii. 35.

THE world has not yet realised the true significance of many of the words of the prophets and seers. There is always the same pitiable attempt to express the infinite in the finite-to narrow down the all-enclosing until it can be enclosed. Perhaps there are advantages in this failing on the part of mankind. Many would be blinded by the full light were it suddenly to appear before them; the kindly glimmer of the candle prepares them for the dazzling brightness of the arc lamp. But it has its disadvantages too. There is a world of beauty missed by those who still retain the candle-a beauty hidden amongst the shadows -that can only be brought to light by the full glare which takes in and illuminates every single nook and cranny.

To those who take the world view, the real