

is certain to lead to an actual and real co-operation in scientific work. In furtherance of this, I am glad to see here to-day influential representatives of most of the British Colonies, of India, and of the United States. We welcome here, also, delegates from other countries; and though the barrier of language may at present prevent a larger union, we may entertain the hope that Britain, America, India, and the Colonies, working together in the interest of science, may ultimately render our English tongue the most general vehicle of scientific thought and discovery, a consummation of which I think there are, at present, many indications.

But, while science marches on from victory to victory, its path is marked by the resting-places of those who have fought its battles and assured its advance. In looking back to 1865, there rise before me the once familiar countenances of Phillips, Murphison, Lyell, Forbes, Jeffreys, Jukes, Rolleston, Miller, Spottiswoode, Fairbairn, Gassiot, Carpenter, and a host of others, present in full vigor at that meeting, but no more with us. These were veterans of science; but, alas! many then young and rising in fame are also numbered with the dead. It may be that before another Birmingham meeting, many of us, the older members now, will have passed away. But these men have left behind them ineffaceable monuments of their work, in which they still survive, and we rejoice to believe that, though dead to us, they live in the company of the great and good of all ages who have entered into the unseen universe where all that is high and holy and beautiful, must go on accumulating till the time of the restitution of all things. Let us follow their example and carry on their work, as God may give us power and opportunity, gathering precious stores of knowledge and of thought, in the belief that all truth is immortal, and must go on for ever bestowing blessings on mankind. Thus will the memory of the mighty dead remain to us as a power which—

“Like a star

Beacons from the abode where the eternal are.”

I do not wish, however, to occupy your time longer with general or personal matters, but rather to take the oppor-