

answered to the call, and sent that most eminent philosopher, Dalton; Ireland sent the Provost of Trinity, Dr. Lloyd; and Scotland was represented by Brewster, and one who had been at that meeting—Professor Forbes, the eminent mathematician. Cambridge was not represented; but from Oxford came Dr. Daubeny, with an invitation to the Association to meet there on the following year. Next year they met under Buckland at Oxford, and they had with them the most eminent scientific men of the day."

Since that time the Association has grown to be one of the great institutions of England. Peripatetic and without local habitation, essentially free and easy in its management, loose in its regulations, and democratic in its character, it is the most popular of British scientific societies. Its meetings attract thousands of auditors, and its influence, by the wide circulation given to its proceedings through the press, is felt throughout all parts of the British Empire.

The British Association is by no means to be viewed as a scene of scientific dissipation. Nor must its utility be regarded as confined merely to the diffusion of popular information, though this is no small or despicable use. It has important uses to the cultivators of science themselves. It drags them out of their dens, and brings them face to face with each other and with the world. It gives scope for a free and open interchange of ideas and arguments. It makes those who have attained to high positions, acquainted with the humbler workers in their several spheres. It gives the younger men opportunities of coming forward into notice. It throws those who are the oracles of little coteries at home into the wider competition of the world. It enables scientific men in general better to appreciate the work of each other, and to form more accurate notions of the powers and modes of thought of fellow laborers. It affords excellent opportunities for bringing out new facts and discoveries, under circumstances which give the means of testing their real value, and, if they pass this ordeal, of giving them general currency.

To a student of science, whose ordinary sphere of labor is at a distance from the great centres of scientific work, and who can but rarely have conference with men engaged in similar pursuits with himself, these meetings are particularly valuable, and their value is enhanced by the rarity of opportunities for enjoying them. In our day the aspects of science rapidly change, and the