

Societies, of about 250. It is cause of much regret that the proportion of these, who have responded to the invitations and are likely to attend, is so small; but the length of the voyage, the time that it necessarily must occupy, and the very few free passages placed at the disposal of the Committee have all in some degree contributed to lessen the number. The fact of the British Association holding its meeting during the same month, and the engagement so many of the European celebrities have contracted in respect thereof, has also been a great drawback to the attendance of the foreigners invited. But we are proud to say that among those whom we have good reason to expect will be present on the occasion, are Sir R. J. Murchison, Director general of the Geological Survey of Great Britain; Col. W. J. Hamilton, M. P., ex-president of the Geological Society of London; Dr. Seaman, delegate from the Linnean Society of London; and Sir Wm. Hooker, of the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Before concluding this brief notice of an Association which we are now so actively preparing to receive, it may be well to reply to a question which some will be sure to ask, viz: how this Association differs from its fellows, and what peculiar means it has of awakening and directing to scientific purposes the power of the social spirit; or why, when there were so many old and new societies for the advancement of science, it was thought necessary and expedient to call this society into being. To say that in this respect it has but followed the example set it by the older and more celebrated institution in our father land, would, to all who understand the benefits and advantages accruing to science and the world at large from the labor of the members of that distinguished association, be explanation enough, especially when added to the fact that we live in a comparatively new country, and that in scientific investigation and research we are but beginners. But it is well to condescend a little more, and in doing so, in preference to any language of our own, we condense and apply that made use of by Sir Wm. Hamilton when answering similar queries made elsewhere.

The American Association, then, as an Association, differs in its magnitude and universality from all lesser and more local societies. What they do upon a small scale, it does upon a large; what others do for Montreal, Toronto, or New York, this does for the whole American continent. Its gigantic arms stretch even to Europe and India; and the joy with which it welcomes to its