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THE PROGRESS OF AMERICAN MINERALOGY.

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(Address of retiring President before American Association for the Advancement of Science. Montreal, August 25th, 1882).

The change in the constitution effected at our last meeting, extending the scope of the Association and dividing it into nine sections, each with a Vice-President, whose duty it is to deliver an address to the section over which he presides, has relieved the retiring President from attempting a general review of the progress of science during the past year. I turn, therefore, to a more special subject, and invite your attention this evening to a sketch of the progress of American Mineralogy since the commencement of this century, with particular reference to the labors of some of the early workers in the science on this continent. During the last quarter of the eighteenth century, while great activity existed and rapid advance was made in the study of chemistry and mineralogy in Europe, almost nothing was accomplished in this new country. It is true that students in other departments of science, especially members of the medical profession in the cities of Philadelphia, New York and Boston, attempted to arouse an interest in mineralogy, believing that the diffusion of a knowledge of this science would be of the utmost importance in the material development of the country. There were, however, no text-books to aid the inquirer. There were no collections of minerals to stimulate the student. In the absence of these it was almost impossible that an interest in this science should be fostered, or that a spirit of investigation should be awakened. As the first distinct beginning of the science, I