

THE Museum was fortunate in securing the services of a collector so well qualified as Herr Jacobsen, who had the advantage of special preparation in his long association with Herr Carl Hagenbeck, Hamburg, for whom he had made many collections for purposes connected with business.

The importance of the results thus far obtained, in an exceedingly brief time, may be inferred from the fact that the collections already received have enriched the Museum by over a thousand specimens from a field entirely new; and still larger acquisitions are in prospect. The present publication may therefore be regarded as the forerunner of a series to be systematically continued.

To repeat here words used on a former occasion: "The furtherance given to ethnology by such collections, is in itself the best thanks to those who thus enlarge the domain of knowledge; and when—as we trust they soon will be—they are placed on exhibition in the new Museum in such a manner as to display their full importance, the names of those to whom their acquisition is due will forever be remembered in the history of ethnology."

And this is but simple justice.

When need is greatest, help is often nighest, the proverb says; and for this one at least of the many ethnological problems pressing for solution, the needed help was found.

In the course of various conferences among persons having a common interest in the subject, by means of the intervention of Herr Le Coq, former Treasurer of the African Society, the friendly services of Herr Hecker were secured; and shortly thereafter, Herr F. Richter, banker, assisted in the formation of a committee, which, with himself as chairman, has now taken in hand the conduct of the undertaking in the direction proposed, and in conformity with the views expressed.

Work while it is day! should be preached in all the streets and at all the doors of the Ethnological City in the Republic of Learning; for night is drawing near for the study of primitive races; is shrouding them in darkness, with all the treasures that would shed any light upon their history, and will soon bury them in the blackness of oblivion. Let there then be no delay in the fulfilment of a duty which we cannot, if we would, leave to our successors, as it must be performed now or not at all.

Just now, when there has been a sudden day-break in the region of Ethnology, the awakened eye sees, beside the brilliant promise of a future Science of Mankind, the yawning of an abyss that engulfs the just germinating seeds and drags them down amid the loud and increased tumult of international intercourse, and eradicates from the face of Mother Earth those races in the stage of infancy which can offer no resistance.

Years ago, in the quicker pulsation of the current of the time, there was a fore-feeling that the natural sciences were about to receive an accession of strength that would enable them to pass from the region of