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SONNET.

Search while thou wilt, and let thy reason go
To ransom truth, ev'n to th' abyss below;
Rally the scattered causes; and that line
Which nature twists, be able to untwine;
It is thy Maker's will, for unto none
But unto reason can He e'er be known.
The devils do know thee, but those damn'd me-
teors

Build not thy glory, but confound thy creatures.
Teach my endeavors so thy works to read,
That learning them in thee I may proceed.
Give thou my reason that instructive flight,
Whose weary wings may on thy hands still light.
Teach me to soar aloft, yet ever so,
When near the sun, to stoop again below.
Thus shall my humble feathers safely hover,
And though near earth, more than the heavens
cover.

And then at last, when homeward I shall drive,
Rich with the spoils of nature, to my hive,
Then will I sit like that industrious fly,
Buzzing thy praises, which shall never die,
Till death abrupts them, and succeeding glory
Bid me go on in a more lasting story.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

REMINISCENCES OF EUROPEAN STUDY AND TRAVEL.—NO. 5.

BY PROF. D. M. WELTON.

In the Spring of last year I had occasion
to spend six weeks in the Reading Room of

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Before detailing the circumstances which
made this necessary, a brief description may
be given of this great establishment. Though
situated in London, it is yet the property of
the nation, and an institution of which every
Englishman may justly feel proud.

The buildings with their adjoining court-
yards occupy seven acres of ground, and up

to the present time, have cost nearly a
million sterling. But extensive as they are,
so much more room is required that it has
lately been decided to remove the Natural
History Collection to South Kensington,
where a suitable building has been erected
for its reception.

The contents of the Museum are divided
into thirteen departments, each being under
the care of a person specially qualified for
the place. Prof. Owen, who has been called
the English Cuvier, superintends the Natural
History departments. The highest office
in the institution is that of Principal Li-
brarian, a position now filled by John Winter
Jones, Esq., who is one of the first biblio-
graphers living. His knowledge of books,
in regard to their authors, subjects, editions,
and history, is marvellous.

A complete inspection of the various art-
treasures found in these spacious rooms and
galleries would require weeks or even months.
In my last paper, reference was made to the
world-renowned Elgin marbles and Assyrian
slabs. In the Egyptian galleries is a fine
collection of remains from ancient Memphis
and Thebes. The hieroglyphics seen on many
of these stones have afforded scholars a most
difficult subject for investigation. Perhaps
the most interesting object is the celebrated
Rosetta Stone, which has three inscriptions
of the same purport, the decipherment of
which gave Dr. Young a key to the inter-
pretation of Egyptian characters. This stone
was among the treasures collected by the
French, when they invaded Egypt, but they
surrendered it to the English at the capitula-
tion of Alexandria.

No object receives more attention in the