

written and printed records is here apprehended in a moment with a glance of the eye. The concrete object teaches us without effort what columns of description would fail to communicate. What was vague and uncertain to the mind of the student is here crystallized into fixed and definite knowledge. The citizen whose attention has not previously been given to historical subjects will find his interest aroused and excited, and will naturally have recourse to the printed volume or the written record for further and detailed information. And there is this further benefit, the interest in life and the age we live in will be quickened by the perceived relation to the past. Our ideas, our sympathies will be broadened by the wider outlook that history affords. We shall be better men and women, more patriotic citizens, and therefore, according to the poet, truer cosmopolitans. The memorials of early missionaries and explorers will teach us heroism. Seeing the evolution of civilization and culture during the hundred years of the history of settlement, we shall be inclined to face the future with a more assured faith, strengthened by knowledge of what has been done and what is being accomplished from year to year. And looking not down but up, not backward but forward, we may fairly hold, with the good rabbi Ben Ezra, while duly valuing the past, that the present is better, and

“the best is yet to be,
The last of life for which the first was made.”