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THE RELATIONS OF MEN OF SCIENCE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.¹

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Just fifty years have passed away since a small body of enthu-iastic students of Geology and Natural History organized themselves into an Association which was, for the first time in the history of this country, not local in its membership or its purpose. As the "Association of American Geologists and Naturalists," it was intended to include any and all persons, from any and all parts of the country, who were actively engaged in the promotion of Natural History studies, and who were willing to re-inforce and strengthen each other by this union. So gratifying was the success of this undertaking, that after a few years of increasing prosperity under its first name, the Association wisely determined to widen the fields of its operations, by resolving itself into the American Association for the Advancement of Science, thus assuming to be in title what it had really been in fact, from the beginning of its existence. One of the articles of its first constitution, adopted at its first meeting, provided that it should be the duty of its president to present an address at a General Session following that

¹ Address by the retiring President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Indianapolis, August, 1890.