

*The American Association for the Advancement of Science.*—

The advent of the distinguished men who constitute the members of this society, and the other illustrious foreigners who have been invited to meet them in the city of Montreal in August next, will be one of the most important and interesting events that has ever occurred in Canada. We well remember when, at a meeting of the Council of the Natural History Society held during the winter of 1856, the propriety of appointing a delegation to represent the Society at the Albany meeting of the Association, was suggested and proposed. And when its present President, Mr. Principal Dawson, hinted that Montreal would do well to invite the *savans* to make that city their next place of meeting, we recollect the doubts that were expressed and the difficulties that were thought to lie in the way of such an offer being accepted. It was said for example, that the American members would never consent to the Association assembling on this side of the line '45°, and it was strongly urged, certainly with more of truth than poetry in the argument, that the Natural History Society, a paralysed, helpless and almost hopeless institution, struggling hard for its very existence, to invite an Association so active and energetic, so distinguished and so full of vitality, would not only be a shock to modesty, but a proceeding which if favorably received, would place the Society in the most awkward difficulty of providing ways and means in accordance with its obligations, to accommodate and entertain the Association so invited. The dissentients were hard to satisfy, but they were at length convinced. The quiet but telling and practical arguments of the President brought them over. There was no knowing what might be the results of such a meeting, what its good effects alike to the aged professor and the very tyro in science. To bring here so many of the learned in this continent to meet together in social communion, for the interchange of great thoughts, would re-animate the dry bones of our society and make it again live. The excitement would not pass at once away; the influences would not be transient, but abiding; they would be with us long; we trust they will never leave us; and that (to use the words of an eminent philosopher speaking of the great sister Society, the British Association.) whether the mathematician's study, or the astronomer's observatory, or the chemist's laboratory, or some rich distant meadow unexplored as yet by botanist, or some untrodden mountain top, or any of the other haunts and homes and oracular