

delightful and improving studies which will be represented here. Finally, to this Museum will resort, for information and guidance, all those who are interested in the aspects of nature in this country and in the development of our natural resources. Thus we may claim for such an institution as this a large and important mission in science, education and the practical business of life. Nor must we regard it as without a use in relation to the higher interests of humanity. Nature proclaims the power and divinity of its Author; and however its testimony may be obscured by any temporary influence of false philosophy, no human power can ultimately silence this testimony, which is, perhaps, more profoundly impressed upon the mind by well-arranged collections of natural objects than in any other way. The gift comes also at an appropriate time, when our collections have outgrown the means for their exhibition, when we require the space they occupy for other uses, when the museum of our old and useful Natural History Society has reached the limit of its space, and when the only national collection in Canada, that of the Geological Survey, is about to be removed from us. Such objects as those to which I have referred have been attained in older and more advanced countries by institutions even greater than that now provided for us. I need not refer here to the magnificent national and educational museums of the Old World. We have sufficient examples on our own continent; examples furnished by national and local liberality, as well as by private benefactions. I may instance the great National Museum at Washington, which is intended to rival, and if possible surpass, the British Museum; the Central Park Museum of New York, on which that great city has lavished vast sums of money; the Zoological Museum of Harvard, whose revenues would suffice to support some entire Universities in this country; or the foundations of Mr. Peabody, which have established great museums in several American cities. With us these potent agencies of civilization are in their infancy; but we should be the more thankful for that which we celebrate to-day. In conclusion, permit me to say that in this Museum I recognize what should be a beginning of greater things in other departments of our work. I could wish to see a building similar to this for our Faculty of Applied Science, on the other side of our grounds; I could wish to see a Senate-house and Dining-hall of still more stately proportions;