

ment and coöperation which men of education and of habits of intellectual thought among us can give. To maintain and to advance this Institute are in more senses than one the duty of enlightened patriotism. In a country governed through the medium of representative institutions, and in which the greatest possible amount of civil and religious liberty is enjoyed, it is impossible but that differences of a political or of a sectarian character must prevail. While the community, though rapidly increasing, is yet comparatively small, there is greater danger than exists on a larger theatre, that such differences should degenerate into personal hostility or individual rancor. But here, in this Institute, may be found an arena where no such differences can ever be permitted to find an entrance. It is here that all those who appreciate the worth of science and its power to contribute to the real wealth, the true greatness of the country, may find a common ground of action; where the love of knowledge, the refinement of education, the grace of scholarship, may, for the time at least, smooth the asperities of other pursuits, and exercise a healing influence, before which the bitterness of sectarian and party contentions shall at last disappear.

We may well aspire to join ourselves to those who are advancing the triumphs of scientific discovery, and are applying those discoveries to the benefit of their fellow men; to form part of that mighty host, who in the increase of knowledge perceive an augmentation in the excellence of their own condition, making intelligent man still more intelligent. Never was there an era wherein greater triumphs have been wrought, nor upon which such a bright future seems to open itself. The very greatness of present success seems almost calculated to make us doubt its reality; and if it were not that we stand upon facts and not upon theories, we could scarce credit the wonders we see, far less anticipate that they are but the precursors of still greater success. The transmission of our corporal selves is now so accomplished that we scarcely know whether most to wonder at the speed at which we move, or at the possibility of uniting safety with it; while for the transmission of inquiry or intelligence, of thought or of wish, space may be almost said, without hyperbole, to be annihilated. The energy and perseverance which in recent years have solved and are solving so many problems in geography, have in like manner advanced actual discovery into unexplored or imperfectly known regions of science, which,—like this western continent,—at first suspected by the profound thinker, and next foretold by the more imaginative enthusiast, were at last and after repeated failures, followed always by