

accommodated with rooms for their work as well as access to specimens. Its publications have given to the world a great mass of matter which would otherwise have been inaccessible to students. Its facilities for intercommunication and exchanges between scientific men, involving an immense amount of detail, have been of the utmost service, and its liberal disposal of duplicate specimens has strengthened the hands of students and teachers far and wide.

Prof. Henry and his assistants are at present giving much attention to the collection of American antiquities, and have accumulated a very large and instructive assemblage of objects of aboriginal art from all parts of the continent. The effort is a most important one. America, with its modern stone age, must eventually furnish the clue to the right interpretation of the immense quantity of facts as to the stone and bone age of Europe now being accumulated, and of which the chronology is at present so strangely, and even absurdly, exaggerated by the majority of European archaeologists.

It is a wide leap to pass from the arrow-heads and stone axes of the Aboriginal Indians to the multitudinous inventions of the modern Americans, but the transition is easily made by passing from the Smithsonian to the noble white marble building designated by the humble name of Patent Office, and inspecting its thousands of feet of glass cases crammed with machines and models, ingenious and stupid, useful and useless; but all monuments of the many inventions of scheming minds. The Patent Office is a vast and well arranged museum of useful art, but its cases are so numerous and so crowded with objects, that a non-professional visitor is simply bewildered, and contents himself with a general glance at the whole. In the lower hall there stands an object suggestive in several ways. It is the marble statue of Washington by Powers, sent during the late war by General Butler from Baton Rouge, in imitation, perhaps, of certain Generals of ancient Rome and modern France, in their treatment of works of art. It is a fine figure, somewhat idealised perhaps, but giving a far better conception of the temperament and aspect of the great American General than the current portraits.

A very interesting collection, known as the Army Medical Museum, has been formed in Ford's theatre, the building in which Lincoln was assassinated. It is a marvel of careful mounting and preparation, and in this respect alone is well worthy of a