

tions to science proved to be most valuable. He showed there were two distinct kinds of reefs on the Brazilian coast, the Sandstone and Coral, and told in that terse, yet clear and attractive style, characteristic of all he penned, how each was formed. He found in one of the southern Provinces a large extent of marine cretaceous rocks filled with Fossil shells.

After his return in 1867 he spent some time in lecturing, at the Cooper Institute, Pelham Priory, and other places in and near New York City, on the Geological explorations made in that country. In 1868 he was chosen Professor of Natural History in Vassar College, at Poughkeepsie. He soon after resigned this position to accept the Professorship of Geology in Cornell University. In 1869 the Hon. E. B. Morgan, of Aurora, New York, fitted out at his own expense an expedition to Brazil, having as its sole object Geological investigation. The staff consisted of Prof. Hartt, Prof. Prentice and eleven students of Cornell University. He likewise accompanied the second Morgan expedition to that country in 1871. During these two last visits he did more than any living man had ever done to bring the Amazonian valley under the notice of the scientific world. Hitherto, so far as its geology was concerned, it was a *terra incognita*. His revelations were of the most interesting and startling kind. He discovered extensive Carboniferous deposits together with large quantities of Devonian and more recent fossiliferous remains. He was also able to refute the theory of a vast Amazonian glacier. This he did in opposition to the view of his former instructor and patron, Agassiz. That great man, without adequate research and by a too hasty generalization, extended the ice-sheet of the glacial epoch over the whole valley of the Amazon. Prof. Hartt demonstrated that, though glaciers may have occurred on the coast near Rio, no traces of them exist even so far north as Bahia. This settling forever of the question concerning ancient glacial action, at the equator, of itself was sufficient to establish the reputation of any explorer. These four Brazilian expeditions, coupled with the careful, minute and scientific manner in which they had been conducted, rendered Prof. Hartt the best qualified of any living Geologist, and doubtless led to his selection by the Emperor Dom Pedro, to enter upon one of the grandest tasks ever committed to a man of science,—to make a Geological survey of an Empire with an area of 3,288,000 square miles, abounding in rich and varied resources and presenting to the eye of the Geologist an almost virgin soil. In May, 1875, he received his instructions from the