

ideas, and teaches us to take close as well as comprehensive views of objects, and argue from facts and not from notions, —a Temple of Science, to enter which in a suitable mood of thought will awaken the holiest and most lofty conceptions, and where the mind of the worshipper, instead of being dwarfed as heretofore, will find its powers become colossal, and be expanded by the Genius of the place. "The reason," says Aristotle, "why men do not sufficiently attend to facts is the want of experience, hence those accustomed to physical inquiries are more competent to lay down the principles which have an extensive application; whereas others, who have been accustomed to many assumptions without the confutation of reality, rarely lay down principles, because they take few things into consideration."* So spoke the great Stagirite 2,200 years ago; it cannot therefore be otherwise than gratifying to such of Dame Nature's disciples as have devoted their lives to a consideration of her rich and inexhaustible stores, to observe how her grand truths begin to be appreciated, and that too in academic halls where not long since it was considered an offence to associate natural science teachings with the *humaniora*.

I shall now proceed with the thread of a narrative which began long years since, and has been continued on to Malta, from whence I now take it up.

With persons who have devoted considerable attention to the physical phenomena of any region, there is engendered an *amor loci* almost like that for one's native land. I can well remember the 24th of March, 1866, when, from the deck of the troopship "Simoom," I watched the familiar cliffs of the above-mentioned island fading in the distant horizon, and how there came over me feelings of regret at bidding adieu to scenes which for the previous six years had afforded me much mental instruction and pleasurable occupation. But having been heretofore a wandering student of nature, and

* "De Gen. et Corr.," 1, 2, 316.