

sight into the great laws of the universe of which they are but the outward expression.

2. They enable those interested in the study of the animals, plants, minerals or other natural products of the Province, to compare the specimens from the latter with those of other countries, and thus with greater certainty and precision to determine their character and to pronounce upon their value.

3. They furnish a standard of reference for settling all doubtful points arising as to the mineralogy, geology or botany of the Province.

4. They are invaluable as a means of instruction, enabling students to acquire an actual and practical acquaintance with the subjects of their study, such acquaintance serving to imprint the characters of the latter upon the memory far more indelibly than can any merely verbal or printed descriptions.

5. They awaken a desire for further acquaintance with the objects illustrated, and arouse fresh exertions to increase the number and completeness of those illustrations.

6. They greatly facilitate the labors of the instructor, by enabling him to appeal directly to the objects described in proof of the truths he may be endeavoring to explain.

7. And lastly they may aid in the general progress of knowledge by collecting and preserving facts and objects, the relations of which to those in other parts of the world, may assist in the discovery of new truths, and the deduction of great and universal principles.

It follows as a natural consequence of many of these facts that the most profitable and advantageous locality for such a collection is in direct connection with a seat of learning. Public Museums, independent of what we call literary institutions, although far from being without their value, fail for the most part to confer those practical benefits which similar collections in colleges and universities are sure to afford. The casual visits made to the former are, without the aid of a guide, apt to confuse rather than to instruct, while the latter, used in the daily illustration of natural laws and organic forms, become storehouses to the student, wherein, with a skilful proper guidance, he may for himself trace out and acquire a knowledge of those laws which it is his object to unfold.

To fully accomplish this result it is desirable that such collections, when made, should be so arranged and displayed as to enable those interested in the study to acquire the desired information with the least possible difficulty. The objects exhibited should be so arranged in suit-