

and we have to look for them very largely as the result of investigation and patient collection of dry data which do not appeal to popular fancy. There is, therefore, good reason why the increasing number of people among the general public who appreciate the results of pure science should give what encouragement they can to scientific institutions and societies.

Facts need to be ascertained. We are too apt to confine ourselves to matters of importance of to-day, without regard to their bearing on the future, when their commercial bearing may be most marked. The scientific results of specialists should be discussed by men of general knowledge or science, before they can become available to all. One of the most remarkable signs of progress and development during the last half century is to be found in the growth of the colonies and dependencies of the Crown. The opening era of the Australian continent, and of the foundation of our own Dominion, now spanning this continent, are two of the brightest spots in this career of progress. These developments of her resources have not cost England battles by land or by sea, nor have they added millions to her national debt. What we trace is a period of sunshine, prosperity and progress. New communities devising for themselves institutions, now sub-dividing for convenience, now confederating for mutual help, and all under one benignant sceptre. The state of things is not yet definite, but time is granted to devise even a firmer system, a federation of the whole. Could we lift the curtain that covers the destiny of the next century, who could foretell the aspect? The word "Excelsior" would stand out prominent, blazoned in letters of gold.

Man's circumstances under the influence of man's mind tend to progress. By the extension of railways, industrial conditions everywhere are undergoing changes; manufacturing towns need no longer be located on rivers or by the sea, but may be established near the sources where the raw materials for manufacture are obtained. The development of the world's resources is facilitated by the application of various departments of science, such as mining, farming, fishing, engineering, and navigation; and supply and demand, and the changes which are always in progress can be anticipated by such commercial men as undertake to acquaint themselves with the leading principles of physical geography.