

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1898.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS (I).*

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In the prevailing scientific activity of the world the enduring vigor which we display in finding out all we can know about ourselves, this point in space we inhabit, what it contains, what it has contained, and what it may be made to contain, the Museum appears as perhaps the most significant emblem of our untiring industry.

If I may use my own language employed in another connection, the museums “appear like monoliths over a country which has become imbued with the scientific spirit, here raised to the memory of some local worker, there stately monuments of cosmopolitan learning, which in the centers of commercial activity preserve alive the genius and the zeal of original research. All are nurtured by the same love of the actual and its relations and laws, and all embody the incessant spirit of observation, comparison and knowledge.

“In the United States, favored by natural causes, the variety and wealth of our natural resources, by the adoption of scientific instruction in our schools, by the practical habits and cultivated instincts of observation of our people, the liberality of general and State governments in organizing surveys, and the helpful impulses of lyceums, lectures and societies, scientific museums increase rapidly.”

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