

SCIENCE

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THE STATE MUSEUM AND STATE
PROGRESS¹

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It has been the good fortune of the people of this Commonwealth to have elected those men to preside over its interests who were positively instrumental in promoting science and learning, and who were especially active in promoting Agriculture, and the branches allied thereto. Your own recommendations and influence, touching these great interests, are highly appreciated by the people, as is evident from their united movements in establishing institutions which are designed to bear directly upon those objects, and which are specially designed to place them upon a scientific basis. (Ebenezer Emmons to His Excellency Hamilton Fish, Governor, Albany, December 25, 1851.)²

THE citizens of New York and their representatives in the legislature are those especially addressed on this historic occasion rather than the distinguished company of scientific men gathered here for this celebration. While the present is a critical period in the moral and economic welfare of our people we predict that the twentieth century, which is still in its youth, is destined to reach its maturity with a far more general distribution of human happiness than the nineteenth. The unequal distribution of the good things of life is the underlying cause of all present social agitation, and by the good things of life we do not mean riches, but family health, food, sunshine, pure air, labor, the beauty of nature, the creative works of man. A redistribution will come about, not through politics which seems to

¹ Address delivered on October 15, 1912, to the citizens and legislature of New York State on the occasion of the opening of the new State Museum at Albany.

² "Natural History of New York, Part V. Agriculture," 4to. New York, Boston, Albany, 1851.