

CHAPTER XIII.

Meeting of Association of American Geologists at Boston.—Popular Libraries in New England.—Large Sale of Literary Works in the United States.—American Universities.—Harvard College near Boston.—English Universities.—Peculiarities of their System.—Historical Sketch of the Causes of these Peculiarities not of Medieval Origin.—Collegiate Corporations.—Their altered Relation to the English Universities after the Reformation.—Constitution given to Oxford by Leicester and Laud.—System of Public Teaching, how superseded by the Collegiate.—Effects of the Change.—Oxford Examination Statute of 1800.—Its subsequent Modification and Results.—Rise of Private Tutors at Oxford and Cambridge.—Consequences of this Innovation.—Struggle at Oxford in 1839 to restore the Professorial System.—Causes of its Rejection.—Tractarianism.—Supremacy of Ecclesiastics.—Youthful Examiners.—Cambridge.—Advocacy of the System followed there.—Influence of the English Academical Plan on the Cultivation of the Physical Sciences, and all Branches of Progressive Knowledge.—Remedies and Reforms.

April 25.—I returned to Boston to attend the third annual meeting of the Association of American Geologists, who had held their previous meetings of 1840 and 1841 at Philadelphia. On the present occasion Dr. Morton took the chair, and in the course of the week papers were read and freely discussed on a variety of scientific questions by many of the leading American geologists, some of whom had come from distant parts of the Union. The patronage afforded by the state surveys has created a numerous class both of practised observers and able writers. Among those engaged in these government undertakings, who took