

ity and happiness can only be insured by spreading an elevated standard of popular education throughout the masses. In their enthusiastic pursuit of this great end, they are acknowledged to have no thought of making proselytes to any system of religious doctrines, and are therefore trusted in the management of schools by the parents of children of the most opposite persuasions. In regard to their own faith, some misapprehension has arisen, in consequence of the name they bear, which was not chosen by themselves, but to which, on the contrary, they have objections, such as members of the Anglican Church might feel if some such name as Anti-transubstantiationists, or any term which simply expressed their opposition to some one article of the Romanist creed, had been fixed upon them. When the rigid Calvinism of the old Puritans caused a schism in New England, the seceders wished to free themselves from the fetters of a creed, and to take the Gospel alone as their standard of faith. They were naturally, therefore, averse to accept a name which might be generally supposed to imply that they attached a prominent importance to the negation of any one doctrine professed by other Christians. "I desire," said Channing, "to wear the livery of no party; but we accept the appellation which others have imposed upon us, because it expresses what we believe to be a truth, and therefore we ought not to shrink from the reproaches cast upon it. But, had the name been more honored, had no popular cry been raised against it, I would gladly have thrown it off."*

May 11.—Sailed from New York to Albany in a steamer, which carried me at the rate of eighteen miles an hour through the beautiful scenery of the Hudson River. I had been invited by two of the state surveyors of New York to make an excursion with them to the north of Albany, and to discuss in the field some controverted points respecting the geology of the oldest fossiliferous strata. There was a physician on board, who, having been settled for twenty-six years in Virginia, had now come back, after that long absence, to see his native state. His admiration and wonder at the progress made by New York in a quarter of a century were unbounded. Speaking of his adopted country,

* Channing's Works, vol. iii. p. 210.