

rapidly carry heat to the interior. The mass then goes on thawing within as well as without, and at temperatures below  $32^{\circ}$ ; whereas pure and compact Wenham ice can only thaw at  $32^{\circ}$ , and only on the outside of the mass.

*Boston, May, 23.*—Sir Humphrey Davy, in his “*Consolations in Travel*,”\* has said, that he never entered London, after having been absent for some time, without feelings of pleasure and hope; for there he could enjoy the most refined society in the grand theater of intellectual activity, the metropolis of the world of business, thought, and action, in politics, literature, and science.

I have more than once experienced the same feelings of hope and pleasure after having wandered over the less populous and civilized parts of the United States, when I returned to Boston, and never more so than on this occasion, when, after traveling over so large a space in the southern and western states, we spent ten days in the society of our literary and scientific friends in the metropolis of Massachusetts, and in the flourishing university in its suburbs. They who wish to give a true picture of the national character of America, what it now is, and is destined to become, must study chiefly those towns which contain the greatest number of native-born citizens. They must sojourn in the east, rather than in the west or south, not among the six millions who are one half African and the other half the owners of negroes, nor among the settlers in the back-woods, who are half Irish, German, or Norwegians, nor among the people of French origin in Louisiana; for, however faithfully they may portray the peculiarities of such districts, they will give no better a representation of America, than an accurate description of Tipperary, Connamara, the West Indies, French Canada, Australia, and the various lands into which Great Britain is pouring her surplus population, would convey of England.

Among other scientific novelties at Boston, I was taken to see two magnificent skeletons, recently obtained, of the huge mastodon, one of them found in Warren County, New Jersey, which a farmer had met with six feet below the surface, when digging

\* P. 168.