

a contrary tendency ; they tend rather to strengthen religious principle, and to confirm moral conduct.”

One of the most gratifying features of the meeting of this body in Edinburgh, in 1850, which I had the pleasure of attending, was the strong religious influence which was manifested. This resulted, in part, perhaps, from the fact that the meeting was presided over by that truly Christian philosopher, Sir David Brewster. But his noble address was warmly seconded by others. Said Dr. Robinson, the eminent astronomer, in complimenting Dr. Mantell's lecture on the gigantic extinct birds of New Zealand, “This lecture speaks to us of God ; yea, more, it speaks to us of Jesus Christ,” —alluding to the fact that these birds were discovered by missionaries ; and that sentiment was warmly cheered by the immense audience, of more than one thousand persons, embracing some twenty of the nobility, a hundred members of the Royal Societies of England and Scotland, sixty professors in the universities and colleges, a hundred physicians, and a hundred clergymen. Ay, a hundred clergymen ; and in the fact I discover the main secret of the religious tone that has characterized these meetings. And here it is, as it seems to me, our British brethren are ahead of us in this country. For there is also an American Scientific Association, on essentially the same plan as the British. It has now been in existence twelve years, and I have attended all its annual meetings save two ; nor have I ever seen any other feeling manifested than respect for religion. But I am sorry to say, that I have met there only a very few of my clerical brethren. If they desire to witness in this body as decided an influence in favor of religion as is exhibited on the other side of the Atlantic, they have only to attend its meetings and take an active part in its labors.