

to zoölogical characters and to geological deposits. . . .

The next letter from Agassiz to his influential friend is written after his final acceptance of the Neuchâtel professorship.

AGASSIZ TO HUMBOLDT.

PARIS, *July*, 1832.

. . . I would most gladly have answered your delightful letter at once, and have told you how smoothly all has gone at Neuchâtel. Your letters to M. de Coulon and to General von Pfüel have wrought marvels; but they are now inclined to look upon me there as a wonder from the deep,<sup>1</sup> and I must exert myself to the utmost lest my actual presence should give the lie to fame. It is all right. I shall be the less likely to relax in devotion to my work.

The real reason of my silence has been that I was unwilling to acknowledge so many evidences of efficient sympathy and friendly encouragement by an empty letter. I wished especially to share with you the final result of my investigations on the fossil fishes, and for that purpose it was necessary to revise my

<sup>1</sup> Ein blaues Meerwunder.