

CHAPTER XVI.

1850 - 1852 : *ÆT.* 43-45.

Proposition from Dr. Bache. — Exploration of Florida Reefs. — Letter to Humboldt concerning Work in America. — Appointment to Professorship of Medical College in Charleston, S. C. — Life at the South. — Views concerning Races of Men. — Prix Cuvier.

THE following letter from the Superintendent of the Coast Survey determined for Agassiz the chief events of the winter of 1851.

FROM ALEXANDER DALLAS BACHE.

WEBB'S HILL, *October 30, 1850.*

MY DEAR FRIEND, — Would it be possible for you to devote six weeks or two months to the examination of the Florida reefs and keys in connection with their survey? It is extremely important to ascertain what they are and how formed. One account treats them as growing corals, another as masses of something resembling oölite, piled together, barrier-wise. You see that this lies at the root of the progress of the reef, so important to