

## CHAPTER XVIII.

1855 - 1860 : ÆT. 48 - 53.

“Contributions to Natural History of the United States.” — Remarkable Subscription. — Review of the Work. — Its Reception in Europe and America. — Letters from Humboldt and Owen concerning it. — Birthday. — Longfellow’s Verses. — Laboratory at Nahant. — Invitation to the Museum of Natural History in Paris. — Founding of Museum of Comparative Zoölogy in Cambridge. — Summer Vacation in Europe.

A FEW months earlier than the school circular Agassiz issued another prospectus, which had an even more important bearing upon his future work. This was the prospectus for his “Contributions to the Natural History of the United States.” It was originally planned in ten volumes, every volume to be, however, absolutely independent, so that the completeness of each part should not be impaired by any possible interruption of the sequence. The mass of original material accumulated upon his hands ever since his arrival in America made such a publication almost imperative, but the costliness of a large illustrated work