

CHAPTER XX.

1863-1864 : ÆT. 56-57.

Correspondence with Dr. S. G. Howe. — Bearing of the War on the Position of the Negro Race. — Affection for Harvard College. — Interest in her General Progress. — Correspondence with Emerson concerning Harvard. — Glacial Phenomena in Maine.

AGASSIZ'S letters give little idea of the deep interest he felt in the war between North and South, and its probable issue with reference to the general policy of the nation, and especially to the relation between the black and white races. Although any judgment upon the accuracy of its conclusions would now be premature, the following correspondence between Agassiz and Dr. S. G. Howe is nevertheless worth considering, as showing how the problem presented itself to the philanthropist and the naturalist from their different stand-points.

FROM DR. S. G. HOWE.

PORTSMOUTH, *August 3, 1863.*

MY DEAR AGASSIZ, — You will learn by a glance at the inclosed circular the object of the commission of which I am a member.