

and then asked me what plans I had formed for the Museum, in connection with my journey. I answered that, thinking especially of my health, I had provided only for the needs of myself and my wife during an absence of six or eight months. Then ensued the following conversation.

“But, Agassiz, that is hardly like you; you have never been away from Cambridge without thinking of your Museum.”

“True enough; but I am tired, — I need rest. I am going to loaf a little in Brazil.”

“When you have had a fortnight of that kind of thing you will be as ready for work as ever, and you will be sorry that you have not made some preparation to utilize the occasion and the localities in the interest of the Museum.”

“Yes, I have some such misgiving; but I have no means for anything beyond my personal expenses, and it is no time to ask sacrifices from any one in behalf of science. The country claims all our resources.”

“But suppose some one offered you a scientific assistant, all expenses paid, what would you say?”

“Of that I had never thought.”

“How many assistants could you employ?”