

travellers who call themselves naturalists is to collect curiosities ; they walk, or rather they crawl, with their eyes fixed on the ground, picking up little bits here and there, without aiming at any general observations. They are like an antiquary who at Rome, with the Pantheon and the Colosseum in front of him, should scrape the ground to seek for pieces of coloured glass without ever casting his eyes on the architecture of these superb edifices. It is not that I advise the neglect of detailed observations. On the contrary, I look upon them as the only basis of solid knowledge. But while we gather these details, I desire that we should never lose sight of the great masses, and that we should always make a knowledge of the great objects and their relations, our aim in studying their small parts.

“But to observe these mighty masses we must not content ourselves with following the high-roads, which nearly always wind through the valleys, and which never cross the mountains, save by the lowest passes. We must quit the beaten tracts, and climb to the lofty summits, whence the eye can take in at one sweep a multiplicity of objects. Such excursions are toilsome, I admit ; we must relinquish carriages, and even horses, endure great fatigue, and expose ourselves sometimes to considerable danger. Many a time the naturalist, when almost within reach of a summit on which he eagerly longs to stand, may doubt whether he has still strength enough left to reach it, or whether he can surmount the precipices which guard its approaches. But the keen fresh air which he breathes makes a balm, to flow in his veins that restores him, and the