

tion of party spirit, party criticism, and party shibboleths, as the easiest method of enlisting popular favour<sup>1</sup> and individual interest; for here there exists no central authority which can create powerful organisations or disburse public means without the distinctly and repeatedly expressed support of a large section of the people. But all this must not induce us, in our historical survey, to dwell on the defects rather than on the excellence of the British contributions to the growth and the diffusion of science. Brilliant is undoubtedly the array of British names which have during the first half of this century become immortal by scientific labours, and it would be narrow-minded simply to emphasise the fact that they have not done so by the same means and through the same organisations as the Continental nations have established and perfected. For we must not forget that these even, with all their rightly extolled universality and breadth of spirit, have sometimes failed to recognise merit or to encourage genius. In spite of the impartial dealings of the Institute, on which Cuvier congratulates the French people, there are several instances in which contributions of the first order lay unnoticed for many years.

11.  
Academies  
and univer-  
sities not  
always im-  
partial.

<sup>1</sup> Referring to the British Association itself, Charles Lyell wrote in 1838, after the Newcastle meeting, to Charles Darwin: "Do not let any papers, whether of saints or sinners, induce you to join in running down the British Association. I do not mean to insinuate that you ever did so, but I have myself often seen its faults in a strong light, and am aware of what may be urged against philosophers turning public orators, &c. But I am convinced, although it is not the way I love to spend my own

time, that in this country no importance is attached to any body of men who do not make occasional demonstrations of their strength in public meetings. It is a country where, as Tom Moore justly complained, a most exaggerated importance is attached to the faculty of thinking on your legs, and where, as Dan O'Connell well knows, nothing is to be got in the way of homage or influence, or even a fair share of power, without agitation" ('Life, Letters, and Journals of Sir C. Lyell,' London, 1881, vol. ii. p. 45, &c.)