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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE LAST QUARTER—A REMINISCENCE AND AN OUTLOOK.*

Ninety years ago, a botanist holding a professor's chair in Williams College for the supposed mismanagement of an estate in Columbia county was confined for a short period in a debtor's prison in New York City. Years afterward he related to a friend that as a relief to the monotony of confinement he found amusement in teaching botany to the keeper's son whom he described as a bright youth of fourteen years. From such an inauspicious beginning came the real development of botany in this city, for while Hosack had attempted to develop his Elgin Gardens earlier in the century, the above episode was the beginning of a career that resulted in the rapid advance of botanical science in New York. It is only proper to add that the professor above noted was no less a personage than Amos Eaton, author of the first series of American botanical manuals, and the willing pupil was none other than John Torrey, the Nestor of American Botany.

Were we tracing the full pedigree of botany in New York, it would be necessary to follow the record two generations back of Torrey, for it was Hosack, the originator of the first botanic garden of New York who instructed and assisted Amos Eaton in his early botanical studies while the latter was still a law student in New York City, and more specially after he had passed on to his higher work of instruction. Hosack's Botanical Garden at 54th Street and Madison Ave. was too far out of town for the New Yorkers of 1801-1806 to visit, and it passed over finally to Columbia College and laid a solid foundation for the financial endowment of that institution, as property