The American Philosophical Society has conferred upon me the duty and pleasure of offering to you a hearty welcome to this General Meeting of the Society, and of expressing the gratification felt by all its resident members at the success which has rewarded their effort to assemble in this historic hall as many as possible of our non-resident members and friends from other parts of our country. Though widely separated as regards residence, and in the character of our labors, we are all of us as members warmly interested in the success and renown of our ancient Society. We who happen to live here know, and have always known, that our non-resident but fellow members, however distant they may be, constitute nevertheless as learned and accomplished a body of scholars as could be assembled anywhere. We know this partly from our limited opportunities of personal acquaintance, which we ardently hope may be more frequent hereafter, and we also know it as the world knows it, from their high distinction in science, from their published contributions to the world’s knowledge, and as we gratefully acknowledge—from the abundant fruits of their labors sometimes contributed here, and which we take pleasure and pride in considering and discussing and giving to the