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SPENCER FULLERTON BAIRD—A PIONEER DISSEMINATOR OF SCIENCE NEWS

THE nineteenth century stands out prominently in the history of the world as the one in which the greatest development of science occurred. In the United States a series of great dominant figures has always conspicuously exerted a potent influence for the benefit of humanity on the progress of science.

Even when the century was at its very beginning the splendid figure of the many-sided Franklin was already almost at its zenith. He knew this and he knew that; he talked with this friend and discussed with that friend, and from the gathering of his friends grew the American Philosophical Society, and Philadelphia became the scientific center of the new world.

The scientific mantle of Franklin passed to Robert Hare, a man of wonderful attainments, conspicuously in chemistry, and to him came Benjamin Silliman, who, having absorbed all that he could acquire in Philadelphia, supplemented it with study abroad and then settled in New Haven as professor at Yale College.

Dana and Hubbard, his sons-in-law, Loomis, Olmsted, Shepard and others were his followers and the *American Journal of Science* came into existence as the great event in American science of the second epoch of the century.

Like a meteor in his brilliancy, Samuel Latham Mitchill flashed on the scene in New York, and for a time Columbia College with its splendid and distinguished teachers of science was foremost. Bruce, Hosack and Renwick are familiar names of that period.

When the century reached its high tide, Louis Agassiz with his wonderful personality settled in Cambridge, and Harvard became the Mecca to where, besides his own son Alexander, Hyatt, Lyman, Morse, Putnam, Scudder, Shaler and Verrill came and studied and then spread their knowledge abroad, illuminating wisdom with marvelous skill and adding much to what was known in natural history. The founding of the Museum of Comparative Zoology with its many fortunate students is a noteworthy event of this time.

Almost simultaneously with the progress made in natural science in Cambridge was that made in Washington under Baird, who, as assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, was slowly developing the

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