IRA REMSEN AND AMERICAN CHEMICAL RESEARCH LITERATURE

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With the return of peaceful conditions following America's wars with England, the energies of the people were soon directed intensively toward the development of the natural resources of the country and to the extension of its western frontier. An awakened sense of nationality and destiny, as well as a sense of the immensity of the task of material exploitation, had begun to influence all classes.

As a recent historian has pointed out:

Over the mountains the great valley two thousand miles wide, with its united river systems four thousand miles long, opened an empire such as man had never seen.

1 Read at the luncheon of the alumni of the Johns Hopkins University in attendance at the meeting of the American Chemical Society in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 8-15, 1840.

This intensive concentration of the nation's efforts toward the discovery of our natural resources and to the development of economic methods for their utilization in the arts naturally led to the creation of an urgent demand for trustworthy sources of information concerning the latest discoveries in both pure and applied science.

It was to meet this growing need that Benjamin Silliman, professor of chemistry and natural history at Yale College, founded the American Journal of Science and Arts in 1819.

This journal may justly be regarded as the forerunner of all American scientific periodicals. In the first number of the journal, Silliman outlined the scope of his projected periodical in these historically significant words: