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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESSES OF WELCOME AT THE OPENING SESSION AT NASHVILLE

(By President A. A. Noyes)

In response to your welcomes I would say at the start we are heartily glad to be here! And this for various reasons: First of all, we look forward to enjoying the famed hospitality of the South in this, one of its leading cities, and to becoming acquainted with its people. But more important still is the hope that our visit here may in some small measure contribute to the already active scientific and educational development of this section of the country. One of your distinguished writers, Professor Mims, has recently described for us "The Advancing South"; and most important among its many advances is, as he rightly emphasizes, that of its intellectual life. The purpose of this association is the advancement of science in its broadest sense; and it is glad to meet again in the South for the reason that conditions are now clearly propitious for a rapid extension of scientific activities here.

I desire especially to reciprocate Dr. Kirkland's greetings from the educational institutions of this state, and to thank them for their cordial welcome. The present success of these institutions affords the best assurance that this state will play its part in the larger development of science which is to take place during the next decades in this country and especially in the South.

It might be desirable on the occasion of this fifty-year anniversary of the former Nashville meeting, to review in broadest outlines the advance of the sciences during the last half-century; but this would be more suitable for the substantial address of a retiring president than for the short responses which I am making to your kind welcomes. I may, however, briefly refer to certain pronounced changes in the viewpoints of scientific investigators.

About forty years ago the physical sciences, physics and chemistry, seemed to have reached a nearly stationary condition, as exemplified by the oft-quoted remark of an eminent physicist that the future advances of physics were to consist in adding another

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