

CHAPTER VI.

1832 : ÆT. 25.

Unexpected Relief from Difficulties. — Correspondence with Humboldt. — Excursion to the Coast of Normandy. — First Sight of the Sea. — Correspondence concerning Professorship at Neuchâtel. — Birthday Fête. — Invitation to Chair of Natural History at Neuchâtel. — Acceptance. — Letter to Humboldt.

AGASSIZ was not called upon to make the sacrifice of giving up his artist and leaving Paris, although he was, or at least thought himself, prepared for it. The darkest hour is before the dawn, and the letter next given announces an unexpected relief from pressing distress and anxiety.

TO HIS FATHER AND MOTHER.

PARIS, *March*, 1832.

. . . I am still so agitated and so surprised at what has just happened that I scarcely believe what my eyes tell me.

I mentioned in a postscript to my last letter that I had called yesterday on M. de Hum-