

wrong impressions which may have been produced by the writings of a false and unphilosophical school. In the furtherance of this object (though at the risk of being taxed with the fault of egotism and useless repetition) I will add one more passage, taken from an anniversary address to the Geological Society, especially as it appears in the pages of a periodical work not perhaps accessible to all the readers of this Discourse.

“There have issued from the English press, within a few years, such dreams of cosmogony as I believe find no parallel in the recent literature of continental Europe. It would be in vain to point out to such authors the nature of our data, or the method of our inductions; for they have a safer and a readier road to their own conclusions. It would be in vain to tell them that the records of mankind offer no single instance of any great physical truth anticipated by mere guesses and conjectures—that philosophic wisdom consists in comprehending the last generalizations derived from facts each of which is only known by experiment and observation; and in advancing, by such means, to those general laws by which all things are bound together. They seem not to know that inventive power in physics, unlike inventive power in works of art or of imagination, finds no employment in ideal creations, and only means the faculty by which the mind clearly apprehends the relations and analogies of things already known; and is thereby directed and urged on to the discovery of new facts, by the help of new comparisons—that the history of all ages (and I might add, the written law of our being, where it is declared that by the sweat of our brow shall we gather up our harvest)