

must necessarily involve arbitrary distinctions, and that very possibly it will hereafter be found that we may in some instances have classed as general, what may prove to be merely local phenomena; and have grouped together deposits, which farther investigations may show to be distinct, and separated from each other by vast periods of time. This consideration will not, however, affect those leading principles of modern Geology, which it is my present endeavour to render familiar to the intelligent but unscientific inquirer.

We will now take a general view of the nature of the mineral substances which enter into the composition of the crust of our globe, and briefly notice the laws which regulate the deposition of detritus in the beds of lakes and rivers, and in the depths of the ocean. But, as I have already remarked, it is not my intention to enter on these departments of Geology in detail; the works of Bakewell,* Lyell,† Phillips,‡

* "Introduction to Geology," by Robert Bakewell, Esq. 1 vol. 8vo. 5th edition. This excellent volume should be the first book in the library of the geological student.

† "The Principles of Geology," by Charles Lyell, Esq. F.R.S. 4 vols. 12mo. One of the most interesting works in the English language. "Elements of Geology." 1 vol. By the same author. 1838.

‡ "A Guide to Geology," by John Phillips, Esq. F.R.S. 1 vol. 12mo. The article on Geology, in the Encyclopedia Metropolitana, by the same excellent writer, is in my opinion the best scientific epitome of modern Geology that has yet appeared. "A Treatise on Geology," in 2 vols. foolscap 8vo. by the same author. 1839. A work of great merit.