

the rest in comparative obscurity, yet all the while she is no niggard in her lustre—for although the rays that meet not our eyes, seem to us as though they were not, yet she, with an equal and unfavouring loveliness, mirrors herself on every wave; even so, perhaps, happiness falls with the same power and brightness over the whole expanse of being, although to our limited perceptions it seems only to rest on those billows from which the rays are reflected back upon our sight.” And if we admit, as all must admit who for one moment consider the marvels which astronomy has unfolded to us, that there are countless worlds around us, inhabited by intelligences, of whose nature we can form no just conception, surely, the discoveries of geology ought not to be rejected because they instruct us that ere man was called into existence, this planet was the object of the Almighty’s care, and teeming with life and happiness.

Thus geology reveals to us the sublime truth—*that for innumerable ages our globe was the abode of myriads of living forms of happiness, enjoying all the blessings of existence, and which at the same time were accumulating materials to render the earth, in after ages, a fit, temporary abode, for intellectual and immortal beings!*

