

Now, this world is a majestic dwelling. What palace of royalty is comparable to it in excellence? What lustre can rival its great lights? What cisterns can come into competition with its mighty ocean? What carpeting can vie in beauty and richness with its luxuriant vegetation? It is not the part of rational beings to occupy such a home and pay no attention to its materials and configuration. We take some position in the landscape. Around us are numerous objects, all of which have a history, if it can only be found and deciphered. Whence flow these streams? How were those mountains elevated? Why have we soft earth here, and hard stone there? How happens it that one mass of rock is homogeneous in its aspect, while another has a laminated structure, and abounds in varied and distinguishable ingredients?

Without profound or varied scientific knowledge, we can perceive the uses of individual parts; we can mark the relations between some of them and others; we find them associated in constituting a magnificent whole; and, if a puny building brings before us the builder, and secures him the homage paid cheerfully to genius,