

who require the largest amount of evidence before that judgment is finally pronounced.

In addition to the inspection of my ever kind and generous friend Mr. Symonds,¹ I have submitted the following pages to the reading of Mr. Geikie² of the Geological Survey, who has here and there furnished a note. Of the amount and correctness of his knowledge, acquired chiefly in the field and in the course of his professional duties, my husband had formed the highest opinion. Indeed, I believe he looked upon him as *the* individual who would most probably be his successor as an exponent of Scottish Geology. One who walks on an average twenty miles per day, and who has submitted nearly every rood of the soil to the accurate inspection demanded by the Survey, must be one whose opinion, in all that pertains to Scottish Geology in especial, must be well worth the having. I have to add an expression of most grateful thanks to Sir Roderick Murchison, for his prompt attention to sundry applications which I was constrained to make to him. His letters have been of the utmost importance in enabling me to perceive clearly the alterations which have taken place in our Scottish Geology, and the reasons for them. One feels instantaneously the benefit of contact with a master-mind. A few sentences, a few strokes of the pen, throw more light on the subject than volumes from an inferior hand.

It remains now only to explain that this course of Lectures, as delivered before the Philosophical Institution, consisted

¹ The Rev. W. S. Symonds, author of *Old Stones, Stones of the Valley*, etc., and the compiler of the index to the recent edition of Sir R. Murchison's *Siluria*.

² Archibald Geikie, Esq., author of *The Story of a Boulder*.