decay in some of its felspar crystals may be detected, yet in no case that I have seen is the decay of a polished granite surface sensibly apparent after exposure for fifteen or twenty years. That the polish will disappear, and that the surface will gradually roughen as the individual component crystals are more or less easily attacked by the weather, is of course sufficiently evident. Even the most durable granite will probably be far surpassed in permanence by the best of our siliceous sandstones. But as yet the data do not exist for making any satisfactory comparison between them.

Since the preceding pages were written, I have had an opportunity of examining the condition of the monumental stones in the graveyards of a number of towns and villages in the north-east of Scotland, where the population is sparse and where comparatively little coal-smoke passes into the atmosphere. The marble tablets last longer there than in Edinburgh, but show everywhere indications of decay. They appear to be quite free from the black or gray sulphate-crust. They suffer chiefly from superficial erosion, but I observed a few cases of curvature and fracture. As a contrast to the universal decay of the marble tombstones, reference may be made to the remarkable durability of the clay-slate which has been employed for monumental purposes in Aberdeenshire. It is a fine-grained, rather soft rock, containing scattered cubes of pyrites, and capable of being readily dressed into thin smooth slabs. A tombstone of this material, erected in the old burying-ground at Peterhead, sometime between 1785 and 1790, retains its lettering as sharp and smooth as if only recently incised. Yet the stone is soft enough to be easily cut with the knife. The cubes of pyrites have resisted weathering so well that a mere thin film of brown hydrous peroxide conceals the