

fitting that a tribute of gratitude should on the present occasion be offered to the memory of Jameson for the life-long devotion with which he taught Natural History, and especially Mineralogy, in this University. His influence is to be judged not by what he wrote, but by the effect of his example, and by the number of ardent naturalists who sprang from his teaching. He founded a scientific society here, and called it Wernerian, after his chief—a society which, under his guidance, did excellent service to the cause of science in Scotland. And yet in the course of my scientific reading I have never met a sadder contrast than to turn from the earlier volumes of the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, containing the classic essays of Hutton, Hall, and Playfair—essays which made an epoch in the history of geology—to the pages of the *Wernerian Memoirs*, and find grave discussions about the universal formations, the aqueous origin of basalt, and the chemical disposition of such rocks as slate and conglomerate.

Between the followers of Hutton and Werner there necessarily arose a keen warfare. The one battalion of combatants was styled by its opponents “Vulcanists” or “Plutonists,” as if they recognised only the power of internal fire, while the other was in turn nicknamed “Neptunists,” in token of their adherence to water. The warfare lasted in a desultory way for many years, and though the Wernerian school, having essentially no vitality, eventually died out, and its leader Jameson publicly and frankly recanted its errors, the early Huttonian magnates had meanwhile one by one departed and left no successors. The Huttonian school triumphed indeed, but its triumph was seen rather in other countries than in Scotland, and was due chiefly to the impetus given to the reception of its doctrines by the *Principles of Geology* of Lyell. The