

in those subsequent changes, both of rocks and minerals, which are of such paramount importance in Geology.

And now, in conclusion, permit me to give expression to the feelings which must strongly possess the mind of one who is called upon to fill the first Chair dedicated in Scotland to the cultivation of Geology. When I look back to the times of that illustrious group of men—Hutton, Hall, Playfair—who made Edinburgh the special home of Geology; of Boué and MacCulloch, who gave to Scottish rocks an European celebrity; of Jameson and Edward Forbes, who did so much to stimulate the study of Geology and Mineralogy in this University; and to the memory of Hugh Miller and Charles Maclaren, who fostered the love of these sciences throughout the community, and for whose kindly friendship and guidance given to me in my boyhood I would fain express my hearty gratitude—when I cast my thoughts back upon these associations, it would be affectation to conceal the anxiety with which the prospect fills me. The memory of these great names arises continually before me, bearing with it a consciousness of the responsibility under which I lie to labour earnestly not to be unworthy of the traditions of the past. And, gentlemen, I feel deeply my responsibility to you who are to enter with me upon a yet untrodden path of the Academic curriculum. It is only experience that will show us how we shall best travel over the wide field before us. In the meantime I must bespeak your kindly forbearance. While I shall cheerfully teach you all I know, and confess what I do not know, I would fain have you in the end to regard me as much in the light of a fellow-student, searching with you after truth, as of a teacher putting before you what is already known. We have now an opportunity of combined and sedulous work which has not hitherto been obtainable in Scotland. We