

admired the forms fashioned in beauty by the hands of the geological forces before we knew that it had a geological origin, or possessed any geological significance, or had passed through long ages of preparation. We have been like children born in the parental dwelling, reared in the midst of its comforts and adornments, without once thinking that, before we were born, some mind planned the dwelling, some hands reared its walls, laid its floors, and fashioned every doorway and casing. Now, this terrestrial dwelling, with all its beauties and conveniences, its wonders and sublimities, is something to set us thinking; just as we reflected, when the thought first came into our minds, that father's house has had a history, and was the product of study and labor, which we had never before considered. The green slope was made; the pretty lake was scooped out; the swelling hill was shaped; the dark mountain was upbuilt, its foundations were laid, its vast weight has been sustained and is to-day sustained by some support, with strength proportioned to the requirement. It is time for us to come to a realization of these facts.

We may begin in this very spot to inquire how this terrestrial home was fashioned. It was made without hands, but not without the use of the same forces of nature and properties of matter as were employed in the building of our paternal dwelling. Its plan was not drafted on paper and carried out under the direction of a builder, who issued his orders in audible tones; but our terrestrial abode is built under a plan just as real and just as intelligible, and is just as truly a fit subject for study. There is this difference, that we may arrive at a complete understanding of the plan, and purposes, and modes of construction of the paternal home; but of the terrestrial home we can only arrive at an incomplete understanding. As far as we proceed, the methods of understanding and interpreting are the same; but the whole plan, in its depth, and breadth, and complications surpasses our powers, and we must, like young children, content ourselves with a comprehension of some of the most obvious things—sure that if our powers were loftier, we might proceed in the same way