

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION. Geological ideas among the Greeks and Romans in regard to (i) Underground forces ; (ii) Processes at work on the surface of the earth ; (iii) Proofs of geological changes in the Past.

IN science, as in all other departments of inquiry, no thorough grasp of a subject can be gained, unless the history of its development is clearly appreciated. Nevertheless, students of Nature, while eagerly pressing forward in the search after her secrets, are apt to keep the eye too constantly fixed on the way that has to be travelled, and to lose sight and remembrance of the paths already trodden. It is eminently useful, however, if they will now and then pause in the race, in order to look backward over the ground that has been traversed, to mark the errors as well as the successes of the journey, to note the hindrances and the helps which they and their predecessors have encountered, and to realise what have been the influences that have more especially tended to retard or quicken the progress of research.

Such a review is an eminently human and instructive exercise. Bringing the lives and deeds of our fore-runners vividly before us, it imparts even to the most