

over many departments of knowledge. He took the keenest interest in them all, and showed the most vivid sympathy in their advancement. His pleasure in every onward step made by science and philosophy showed itself in the most lively demonstrations. "He would rejoice," we are told by Playfair, "over Watt's improvements on the steam-engine, or Cook's discoveries in the South Seas, with all the warmth of a man who was to share in the honour or the profit about to accrue from them. The fire of his expression, on such occasions, and the animation of his countenance and manner, are not to be described; they were always seen with great delight by those who could enter into his sentiments; and often with great astonishment by those who could not."

While so much was congenial to his mental habits in the friendly intercourse of Edinburgh society, there was not less in the scenery around the city that would stimulate his geological proclivities. He could not take a walk in any direction without meeting with illustrations of some of the problems for the solution of which he was seeking. If he turned eastward, Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags rose in front of him, with their memorials of ancient volcanic eruptions. If he strolled westward, the ravines of the Water of Leith presented him with proofs of the erosive power of running water, and with sections of the successive seabottoms of the Carboniferous period. Even within the walls of the city, the precipitous Castle Rock bore witness to the energy with which in ancient times molten material had been thrust into the crust of the earth.