

which could not be founded on observation. He made no assumptions. Every step in his deductions was based upon actual fact, and the facts were so arranged as to yield naturally and inevitably the conclusion which he drew from them. Let me quote from the conclusion of his work a few sentences in illustration of these statements. In the interpretation of Nature, he remarks, "no powers are to be employed that are not natural to the globe, no action to be admitted of except those of which we know the principle, and no extraordinary events to be alleged in order to explain a common appearance. The powers of Nature are not to be employed in order to destroy the very object of those powers; we are not to make Nature act in violation to that order which we actually observe, and in subversion of that end which is to be perceived in the system of created things. In whatever manner, therefore, we are to employ the great agents, fire and water, for producing those things which appear, it ought to be in such a way as is consistent with the propagation of plants and the life of animals upon the surface of the earth. Chaos and confusion are not to be introduced into the order of Nature, because certain things appear to our practical views as being in some disorder. Nor are we to proceed in feigning causes when those seem insufficient which occur in our experience."<sup>1</sup>

No geologist ever lived among a more congenial and helpful group of friends than Hutton. While they had a profound respect for his genius, they were drawn towards him by his winning personality, and

<sup>1</sup> *Theory of the Earth*, vol. ii. p. 547.