

ground, the steepest slopes, or the highest summits, and his bodily strength bore him bravely through incredible exertion. Unfortunately his health, always uncertain, would react on his spirits, and times of depression and lethargy would come to interrupt and retard his work, whether with hammer or pen. But even his gloomiest fits he could turn into merriment, and he would laugh at them and at himself, as he described his condition to some friend. His gaiety of spirit made him the centre and life of every company of which he formed part. His frank manliness, his kindness of heart, his transparent childlike simplicity, his unwearied helpfulness and his gentle tenderness, combined to form a character altogether apart. He was admired for his intellectual grasp, his versatility, and his eloquence, and he was beloved, almost worshipped, for the overflowing goodness of his character.

When in the early part of this century, one discovery after another was made which showed that Werner's so-called primitive rocks reappeared among his Transition and Floetz formations, a doubt began to arise whether there were any primitive rocks at all.¹ We have traced how Murchison and Sedgwick cleared up the confusion of the Transition series and created the Devonian, Silurian and Cambrian systems. In Wales certain schists had been detected by Sedgwick below his Cambrian rocks, but they did not greatly interest him, and he never

¹Thus D'Aubuisson wrote in 1819—"Geology no longer possesses a single rock essentially primitive" (*Traité de Géognosie*, tome ii. p. 197).