

of geological inquiry and speculation. Of the whole gallery of worthies that have passed before us, a comparatively small proportion could be classed as in the strictest sense professional geologists, such as Werner, Sedgwick and Logan. Were we to step outside of that gallery, and include the names of all who have helped to lay the foundations of the science we should find the proportion to be still less.

From the beginning of its career, geology has owed its foundation and its advance to no select and privileged class. It has been open to all who cared to undergo the trials which its successful prosecution demands. And what it has been in the past, it remains to-day. No branch of natural knowledge lies more invitingly open to every student who, loving the fresh face of Nature, is willing to train his faculty of observation in the field, and to discipline his mind by the patient correlation of facts and the fearless dissection of theories. To such an inquirer no limit can be set. He may be enabled to rebuild parts of the temple of science, or to add new towers and pinnacles to its superstructure. But even if he should never venture into such ambitious undertakings, he will gain, in the cultivation of geological pursuits, a solace and enjoyment amid the cares of life, which will become to him a source of the purest joy.

In the second place, the history of geological science presents some conspicuous examples of the length of time that may elapse before a fecund idea comes to germinate and bear fruit. Consider for a moment how many years passed before the stratigraphical conceptions of Füchsel, Lehmann, and Giraud-Soulavie