

strict accordance with those sacred records which reveal the moral obligations and destiny of the human race.

With these observations I conclude this volume; entreating the indulgence of the geologist for much prolixity on subjects with which he was already familiar, but which without such detail would have presented but little interest to many; and assuring the general reader who may feel desirous of further information, that the more he becomes acquainted with the nature and objects of geological enquiries, the more he will find them to possess in an eminent degree the charms and advantages which are so eloquently described by Sir John Herschel, as being inseparably connected with the study of every branch of natural philosophy. "To the natural philosopher there is no natural object unimportant or trifling. From the least of nature's works he may learn the greatest lessons. The fall of an apple to the ground may raise his thoughts to the laws which govern the revolutions of the planets in their orbits; or *the situation of a pebble may afford him evidence of the state of the globe he inhabits, myriads of ages ago, before his species became its denizens.* Accustomed to trace the operation of general causes, and the exemplification of general laws, where the uninformed and unenquiring eye perceives neither novelty nor beauty, he walks in the midst of wonders: every object which falls in his way elucidates some principle, affords some instruction, and impresses him with a sense of harmony and order; while the observation of the calm, energetic regularity of nature, the immense scale of her operations, and the certainty with which her ends are attained, tends, irresistibly, to tranquillize and re-assure the mind, and render it less accessible to repining, selfish and turbulent emotions. And this it does, not by debasing our nature into weak compliances and abject submission to circumstances, but by filling us, as from an inward spring, with a sense of nobleness and power which enables us to rise superior to them; by showing us our strength and innate dignity, and by calling upon us for the exercise of those powers and faculties by which we are susceptible of the comprehension of so much greatness, and which form, as it were, a link between ourselves and the best and noblest benefactors of our species, with whom we hold communion in thoughts, and participate in discoveries, which have raised them above their fellow-mortals, and brought them nearer to their Creator."*

* Discourse on the Study of Natural Philosophy, p. 14-17.