earth, so great as to set at nought our attempts at estimation, may be compendiously understood by any one who will take moderate pains in studying the appearances of stratification and the characters of organic remains; it ought to be kept in mind that there is a multitude of facts, of a more minute description, and which present themselves on every hand to the practised geologist, each of which has great importance, but the sum of which amounts to an irresistible body of argument. It would be unreasonable to expect that all, of even liberally educated and well informed persons, should be sufficiently versed in Natural History, Chemistry, and the doctrines of mechanical forces, to be able readily to apprehend and duly to weigh those facts and the deductions from them: but the claim is reasonable that, in such cases, we should satisfy ourselves by giving credit and honour where credit and honour are due. We feel no difficulty in thus relying upon conclusions drawn, in the way of mathematical reasoning, by Newton, Bradley, Laplace, and the Herschels; and, were we to indulge the monstrous supposition that such men were willing to deceive, we know that there are thousands able and ready to detect the minutest error and expose any misstatement, if such there were. Upon this ground, therefore, I may take a few sentences from a mathematician and man of science, from whom, in the first lecture, I derived an important citation, and who, till his recent resignation, filled the chair of Newton. In his work, "The Ninth Bridgewater Treatise," Mr. Babbage has the following words.

"In truth, the mass of evidence which combines to prove the great antiquity of the earth itself, is so irresistible, and so unshaken by any opposing facts, that none but those who are alike incapable of observing the facts and appreciating the reasoning, can for a moment conceive the present state of its surface to have been the result of only six thousand years of existence.——Those observers and philosophers who