

studied, without exposure to fatal errors, till the exact sciences had been raised to their present state of cultivation; till NEWTON had led the way; till Astronomy had been perfected by the Bradleys, the Laplaces, and the Herschells; till Chemistry had come into existence; (for it could scarcely be said to have existed before the days of Priestley and Davy;) till Cuvier had made his wonderful use of Comparative Anatomy; and till the exquisite calculation of Dynamics had been established by those living men to whom we look with feelings of, not admiration only, but amazement. In a word, the wisdom of Providence had prepared the combinations, for taking effect in our own time, by which Geological Science should rise and flourish.

There was one distinguished philosopher, Leibnitz, the contemporary and rival of Newton, the man of universal application, and of wondrous attainment in Theology, Jurisprudence, Mathematics, and Philosophy generally, whose penetrating sagacity looked beyond his time. It is instructive and delightful to meet with such instances of the power of mind; recollecting *from* WHOM the talent comes, and the high responsibility which is inseparable from it, before HIM in whose sovereign disposal "is power and might, and in whose hand it is to make great."\* I cannot resist the wish to cite the words of a judicious author and one of our first-rate geologists. "Leibnitz honoured this branch of physical speculation by devoting to it a portion of his attention, and anticipated, with the prophetic sagacity of a powerful mind, its future progress, and the very methods of investigation which would most effectually contribute to its successful development."—He "exhibits a clear anticipation of the importance and the prospects of the new science of which he foresaw the

\* 1 Chron. xxix. 12.