

men in whose circumstances have been combined eminent science, disengagement from other occupations, health, bodily strength, ample fortune, and such attachment to these pursuits as made them shrink from no labour. It is not given to every man to be a De la Beche, a Buckland, or a Griffith ; a Murchison, a Phillips, or a Sedgwick. The investigations however have been carried on, over the larger part of Europe, and a great breadth and length in North America ; and the observations made by individuals have been brought together, rigorously sifted, mutually compared, and their combined results wrought into an harmonious whole. Yet the class of men of whom I am speaking have not sat down satisfied with even the best proved inferences. They have continued their efforts ; and their instructions and example have excited others. Many parts of Eastern Europe, Asia, and South America, have been explored by experienced geologists ; and their Reports, not seldom brought by themselves and subjected to searching criticism in assemblies of able and acute examiners, have thus been added to the common treasury.

One of the first results established was that the outspread masses of which we are treating, sands, gravel, and bowlders, were not of one formation, nor of one age. The separate divisions into which they had been traced, put upon each a sort of historical mark. Some were found to belong to origins almost on their own spot, that is, the rocks of the locality within but a few miles : others were traced to a considerable distance, yet in the same country. Others were shown to have been derived from mountains in remote lands, from which they are now divided by lofty ridges or by seas, which are thus proved not to have existed when the passage was free. The order of priority or posteriority has been evinced, by palpable proofs. The course of a more ancient drift has often been overlaid by a more recent one. In many instances,