

convinced also of the need of minute accuracy in all details. This one science,—or you may have chosen a department of solid and elegant literature, then I would say, this one object,—make your dwelling place ; and let others be viewed as accessories of convenience and stability. Avenues will open into other departments of valuable knowledge. Affinities will present themselves of the most pleasing kind. Mutual illustrations will multiply. Delight will supersede difficulty. Every position taken up will give a new extent of command ; and by degrees a noble allotment will be enclosed from the field which divine goodness has made the common property of mankind. Thus, a most desirable amount of literary or scientific acquirement will be laid up in the stores of the memory. The very labour of getting these intellectual possessions will be a pleasure, and its own reward ; and results will probably be obtained, of immediate value in the arts of life. Your attainments will not be superficial ; they will be solid and safe, so far as they have proceeded ; you will have always in your hand good instruments, and you will know how to use them, for making progress in any direction that may invite. But forget not the heavenly axiom, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

II. As a branch of knowledge to which I request these remarks to be especially applied, I invite you to the studies of GEOLOGY.

Here I avail myself of a paragraph, expressed with his usual felicity and force, by one of the most favoured sons of science, and to whom already I have been largely indebted.

“ By the discoveries of a *new science* (the very name of which has been but a few years engrafted on our language) we learn that the manifestations of God’s power on the earth have not been limited to the few thousand years of man’s existence. ‘The geologist