

tells us, by the clearest interpretation of the phenomena which his labours have brought to light, that our globe has been subject to vast physical revolutions. He counts his time, not by celestial cycles, but by an index he has found in the solid framework of the globe itself. He sees a long succession of monuments, each of which may have required a thousand ages for its elaboration. He arranges them in chronological order, observes in them the marks of skill and wisdom, and finds within them the tombs of the ancient inhabitants of the earth. He finds strange and unlooked for changes in the forms and fashions of organic life, during each of the long periods he thus contemplates. He traces these changes backwards, through each successive era, till he reaches a time when the monuments lose all symmetry, and the types of organic life are no longer seen. He has then entered on the dark age of nature's history; and he closes the old chapter of her records.—This account has so much of what is exactly true, that it hardly deserves the name of figurative description.”*

* Sedgwick's *Studies of Cambridge*; p. 25. My reader will thank me for introducing here a passage from another ornament of the same University. “The spirit of geological observation is so widely diffused and so thoroughly roused, that I trust we need not anticipate any pause or retardation in the career of Descriptive Geology. I confess indeed for my own part, I do not look to see the exertions of the present race of geologists surpassed by any who may succeed them. The great geological theorizers of the past belong to the *Fabulous Period* of the science; but I consider the eminent men by whom I am surrounded as the *Heroic Age* of Geology. They have slain its monsters and cleared its wildernesses; and founded here and there a great metropolis, the queen of future empires. They have exerted combinations of talents, which we cannot hope to see often again exhibited; especially when the condition of the science which produced them is changed. I consider that it is now the destiny of Geology to pass from the heroic to the *Historical Period*. She can no longer look for supernatural successes: but she is entering upon a career, I trust a long and prosperous one, in which she must carry her vigilance into every province of her territory, and extend her dominion over the earth, till it becomes, far more truly than any before, a universal empire.” The Rev. Wm. Whewell, in his Address as President of the Geol. Soc. Feb. 15, 1839. The concluding sentiment referred only to human dominions, civil or intellectual. I am sure that the learned and estimable speaker is not indifferent to the unearthly empire of Christianity, which God has destined to be the parent of virtue and happiness, knowledge and peace, to all nations.