

# GEOLOGICAL SKETCHES

## AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### I.

#### MY FIRST GEOLOGICAL EXCURSION.<sup>1</sup>

'Tis an old story now, so far back, indeed, that I hardly like to reckon up the years that have since passed away. But clear and bright does it stand in my memory, notwithstanding, that quiet autumnal afternoon, with its long country ramble to an old quarry, the merry shouts of my schoolmates, the endless yarns we span by the way, and the priceless load of stones we bore homeward over those weary miles, when the sun had sunk, red and fiery, in the west, and the shadows of twilight began to deepen the gloom of the woods. Many a country ramble have I made since then, but none, perhaps, with so deep and hearty an enjoyment, for it opened up a new world, into which a fancy fresh from the Arabian Nights and Don Quixote could adventurously ride forth.

Up to that time my leisure hours, after school-lessons were learnt, and all customary games were played, had been given to laborious mechanical contrivances, based

<sup>1</sup> *Good Words*, 1861.