

may not rival a Hutton or a Hall ; but we may at least try to raise again the standard of geological inquiry here. On every side of us are incentives to study. Crag and hill rise around us, each eloquent of ancient revolutions, and each a silent witness of the revolution in progress now. At our very gates tower on one side the picturesque memorials of long silent volcanoes, with their crumbling lavas and ashes. On the other lies the buried vegetation of an ancient land, with the corals and shells of a former ocean. Everywhere the scarred and wasted rocks tell of the degradation of the solid land, and show us how the waste goes on. Let us then carry into our task some share of the enthusiasm which these daily exemplars called forth in bygone times. Let us turn from the lessons of the lecture-room to the lessons of the crags and ravines, appealing constantly to nature for the explanation and verification of what is taught. And thus, whatsoever may be your career in future, you will in the meantime cultivate habits of observation and communion with the free fresh world around you—habits which will give a zest to every journey, which will enable you to add to the sum of human knowledge, and which will assuredly make you wiser and better men.