

planet bathed in the primitive ocean; boiled in the seething water; roasted in ancient fires; distorted, upheaved, moulded, and reshaped again and again, in a long process of preparation to become fit for us to dwell upon it. We shall see a long procession of strange creatures coming into view and disappearing—such a menagerie of curious beasts and crawling and creeping and flying things as never yet marched through the streets of any town. And what is most wonderful of all, we shall plunge through thousands of ages of coming events, and sit on our pinnacle and see the world grow old—all its human populations vanished—its oceans dried up—its sun darkened, and silence and midnight and Winter reigning through the entire province in which a sisterhood of planets at present basks in the warmth and light of a central and paternal sun.

Do you feel no curiosity over these wonderful themes? These all belong to Geology. Come, let us begin.

But we must begin at the beginning. Those who go on long and pleasant journeys have to start from their own door-steps. Geology tells all about this world. The world is *here*—under our feet. It is in the garden and along the road-side, and in the field, and on the shore where the summer ripples sing lullabies to the sleepy crags, and winter storms tear them from their resting-places. No summer ripples or wintry storms are here; but the solid land is here. Let us walk up this hill-slope and sit where we may get an outlook over a little piece of the world's surface.

What is there, now, within reach of our vision that we can distinguish and describe and say that it belongs to the world—is a part of the world? Whatever it may be, it is a geological fact. It is a part of the science of geology. Now, here is this hill-slope, and the soil and stones which make it. Back of us the hill rises to a higher level. Perhaps brown cliffs frown near its summit; and there are huge, heavy trees upborne five hundred feet above the town. But, in the opposite direction, there is the landscape. That is a geological fact. With all its scenic beauty, that is geology, at founda-