

without a feeling of respect and sympathy for the man who, under many discouragements, and with but slender means, succeeded in achieving so much in such a wide circle of acquirement. And there is thus no little satisfaction in resuscitating among English and American geologists the memory of a man in whom I trust that they will recognise one of the founders of their science, deserving a place not inferior to that of some whom they have long held in honour.

And first with regard to Guettard's labours in the domain of geographical geology, or the distribution of rocks and minerals over the surface of the earth. I have referred to the manner in which he was gradually drawn into this subject by his botanical excursions. As the result of his researches, he communicated in 1746 to the Academy of Sciences in Paris a memoir on the distribution of minerals and rocks.¹ Having been much impressed by the almost entire absence of certain mineral substances in some places, though they were abundant enough in others, he was led to suspect that these substances are really disposed with much more regularity than had been previously imagined. He surmised that, instead of being dispersed at random, they were grouped in bands which have a characteristic assemblage of minerals and a determinate trend, so that when once the breadth and direction of one of these bands is known, it will be possible, even where the band passes into an unknown country, to tell beforehand what minerals and rocks should be found along its course.

¹ *Mém. Acad. Roy. France*, vol. for 1751.