

almost universal in England during his life, but which never made much way in the rest of Europe, and which in its extreme form is probably now held by few geologists in any country. Lyell's *Principles of Geology* will, however, always rank as one of the classics of geology, and must form an early part of the reading of every man who would wish to make himself an accomplished geologist. The last part of this work was ultimately published as a separate volume, with the title of *Elements of Geology*, in which a large space was devoted to an account of the stratified fossiliferous formations. This treatise, diligently kept up to date by its author, continued during his life-time to be the chief English exposition of its subject, and the handbook of every English geologist.

Lyell's function was mainly that of a critic and exponent of the researches of his contemporaries, and of a philosophical writer thereon, with a rare faculty of perceiving the connection of scattered facts with each other, and with the general principles of science. As Ramsay once remarked to me, "We collect the data, and Lyell teaches us to comprehend the meaning of them." But Lyell, though he did not, like Sedgwick and Murchison, add new chapters to geological history, nevertheless left his mark upon the nomenclature and classification of the geological record. Conceiving, as far back as 1828, the idea of arranging the whole series of Tertiary formations in four groups, according to their affinity to the living fauna, he established, in conjunction with Deshayes, who had independently formed a similar opinion, the well-known classification into Eocene, Miocene, and Pliocene. The first of these terms was