At last Mr. Henry Clifton Sorby came to Edinburgh, and had an opportunity of looking over the Bryson collection. He was particularly struck with the series of slices illustrating "fluid-cavities," and at once saw that the subject was one of which the further prosecution could not fail to "lead to important conclusions in geological theory."[1] He soon began to put the method of preparing thin slices into practice, made sections of mica-schist,[2] and found so much that was new and important, with a promise of such a further rich harvest of results, that he threw his whole energy into the investigation for several years, and produced at last in 1858 the well-known memoir, *On the Microscopical Structure of Crystals*,[3] which marks one of the most prominent epochs of modern geology. I have always felt a peculiar satisfaction in the reflection that though the work of William Nicol was never adequately recognised in his lifetime, nor for many years afterwards, it was his thin slices, prepared by his own hands, that eventually started Mr. Sorby on his successful and distinguished career, and thus opened out a new and vast field for petrographical investigation.

It is not necessary here to recapitulate the achievements which have placed Mr. Sorby's name at the head of modern petrographers. He, for the first time, showed how, by means of the microscope, it was possible to discover the minute structure and

[1] *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* vol. xiv. (1858), p. 454.

[2] *Brit. Assoc. Reports*, 1856, sections, p. 78.

[3] *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* vol. xiv. (1858), p. 453.