

the first instance, indebted to William Nicol and Henry Clifton Sorby.

In the account which has been presented in this volume of the work of some of the more notable men who have created the science of geology, one or two leading facts stand out prominently before us. In the first place, even in the list of selected names which we have considered, it is remarkable how varied have been the ordinary avocations of these pioneers. The majority have been men engaged in other pursuits, who have devoted their leisure to the cultivation of geological studies. Steno, Guettard, Pallas, Füchsel, and many more were physicians, either led by their medical training to interest themselves in natural history, or not seldom, even from boyhood, so fond of natural history as to choose medicine as their profession because of its affinities with that branch of science. Giraud-Soulavie and Michell were clergymen. Murchison was a retired soldier. Alexandre Brongniart was at first engaged in superintending the porcelain manufactory of Sèvres. Desmarest was a hard-worked civil servant who snatched his intervals for geology from the toils of incessant official occupation. William Smith found time for his researches in the midst of all the cares and anxieties of his profession as an engineer and surveyor. Hutton, Hall, De Saussure, Von Buch, Lyell and Darwin were men of means, who scorned a life of slothful ease, and dedicated themselves and their fortune to the study of the history of the earth. Playfair and Cuvier were both teachers of other branches of science, irresistibly drawn into the sphere