

the story of a few of the great pioneers during the momentous period which I wished to select, and to show, from their struggles, their failures, and their successes, how geological ideas and theories arose, and were step by step worked out into the forms which they now wear.

The narrative thus proposed was made the subject of six lectures which were published in the summer of 1897 as a small volume entitled *The Founders of Geology*. This work has been for some time out of print. In preparing a new edition I have departed from the original form of lectures, and from the restricted treatment of the subject which a short course of lectures necessarily involved. While retaining and also enlarging the more detailed discussion of the remarkable period embraced in the original lectures, I have given a sketch of the earlier progress of geological ideas, from the times of ancient Greece onwards to the epoch that formed the starting point of my former volume.

In this extension of the subject I have adhered to my original plan of tracing the origin and slow development of geological science, rather in an account of the careers of a few of the chief leaders by whom the progress has been mainly effected, than in an attempt to summarise also the work of their less illustrious contemporaries.

Since the publication of the first edition, my lamented friend the late Professor Zittel of Munich published (1899) his *Geschichte der Geologie und Paläontologie*—a work of extraordinary labour, fullness and accuracy, with which no student of geology who cares to know the history of his science can dispense. An excellent