

they are there met by tides and currents, accumulate mud, gravel, and the remains of animals of the species which now exist: and the deposits which have thus taken place are distinguished from those produced by the grand revolutions which preceded, by the term 'alluvium.'

My admiration of the labours of our geologists partakes of a feeling of gratitude. But yet there is something in the subject which leads the devoted student to be too ambitious, and to frame theories almost too comprehensive. It is not enough for the geologist to say that, after all, the changes on the earth's surface which he describes as having taken place, are not greater, in comparison with the size of the earth, than the cracks in the varnish are to the globe that stands on the table. But it has been part of our object to show that the features of our globe, and the phenomena around us, are suited, and intended, to excite the faculties and imagination. Accordingly, when the mineralogist extends his survey from the mountains over extensive plains, and looks down into the ravines and valleys, and persuades himself that he can say when and how they have been formed, he is tempted to indulge in an enthusiasm which can have its merit only with the poet.

Wonderful improvements have indeed been made in this science by our countrymen who have associated themselves for this purpose.