

a combination between the progress of Geology in England and on the continent, by a distinct and masterly survey of their comparative structure; and has first treated the action of the diluvial currents with fulness and precision.

To Dr. Mac Culloch we owe our best information on the structure and phænomena of the interesting class of trap rocks and of granite, and the substitution of a rigorous determination of their mineralogical character for the vague nomenclature and descriptions so commonly applied to many of the older formations. While he has been elucidating the geological history of Scotland, that of Ireland has received similar contributions of the highest merit from Messrs. Weaver and Griffith.

The Edinburgh school has to boast of several distinguished geological names; it is impossible to mention that of Playfair without the admiration demanded by a genius of a very high philosophical order, or that of Jameson without the respect due to a long and meritorious career of labours devoted to the advancement of this science; but we cannot but feel the injurious effects which have in this instance been produced by that excessive addiction to theoretical speculations, which has converted the members of that school into the zealous partisans of rival hypotheses, and led them to contribute far less than they otherwise must have done, to the real progress of inductive geology. To this cause we must ascribe it, that it has fallen so far behind the schools of London and Oxford;* in the latter case a striking and satisfactory proof has been afforded in opposition to the misrepresentations of shallow sciolists, that the institutions of academical education are far from unfavorable to the cultivation of the physical sciences, and that an ignorance of the rules of classical composition, and of the languages, and philosophy of polished antiquity, are by no means essential advantages in researches of this nature: it has been rather seen

quid mens rite, quid indoles
nutrita faustis sub penetralibus
possit.

Cambridge has yielded a similar evidence in the valuable memoirs of Messrs. Sedgewick and Henslow.

* It will be readily permitted to the present writer at once to discharge a debt of justice and enter a gratifying memorial of private friendship, by here recording the fact that we owe the introduction of these pursuits into the University above mentioned, to lectures delivered between 1805 and 1810 by the present Professor of Chemistry Dr. Kidd. His more private exertions in encouraging the rising talents of others, and promoting their co-operation, were as successful in effect as liberal in design. The Oxford school may claim the important observations of Mr. Strangeways on the Russian Empire as among its fruits.