

place; and of the changes through which they have passed and are passing; with a view to the enlargement of human knowledge, the promotion of our present happiness, and the celebration of His perfections “of whom, and through whom, and to whom are all things.”

It is obvious that this is an attractive field of investigation, promising not only to be productive of intellectual pleasure, but to bring many and great benefits to the arts of usefulness and comfort in life, and to furnish interesting discoveries of the power, wisdom, and goodness of HIM who exists independently and by necessity of nature, possessed of all perfections, the designing cause and active sustainer of all other beings, and to whom it is equally our duty and our happiness to render the highest veneration and love and homage.

It is not less obvious, that this study cannot be undertaken, with any reasonable hope of success, without the aid of some other branches of natural science. Indeed, to so high a point have the pursuits of Natural History and Natural Philosophy been raised in our day, that it is no longer possible for one department to be cultivated, with the hope of success and so as to avoid the danger of falling into egregious mistakes, without some acquaintance with the others. This fact has been both proved and elucidated, with equal force of reasoning and elegance of manner, by a lady of extraordinary attainments, in her work entitled *The Connexion of the Physical Sciences*.

The substances which compose the external part of our earth, and which present themselves sometimes in a simple state but generally in various forms of composition, must be ascertained by their external appearance; and such knowledge is the science of the Mineralogist. But their inward nature, and the states of union in which we find them, must also be known; together with the principles or laws, as they are usually called, which reg-