

He should fully comprehend one subject before he advances to the consideration of another, and should test the solidity of his knowledge by practical research. He should visit some of the localities described ; collect specimens, and develope them with his own hands ; examine their structure microscopically ; nor rest satisfied till he has determined their general character, and ascertained their generic and specific relations. Nor is this an arduous or irksome task ; by a moderate degree of attention, a mind of average ability may quickly overcome the apparent difficulties, and will find in the knowledge thus acquired, and in the accession of mental vigour which such investigations never fail to impart, an ample reward for any expenditure of time and trouble. It is, indeed, within the power of every intelligent reader, by assiduity and perseverance, to attain the high privilege of those who “walk in the midst of wonders, in circumstances where the uninformed and uninquiring eye can perceive neither novelty nor beauty ;” * and of being

“ Even as one,
Who by some secret gift of soul or eye,
In every spot beneath the smiling sun,
Sees where the Springs of living Waters lie !”

* Sir J. F. W. Herschel’s Discourse, Nat. Phil. p. 15.