

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

A QUARTER of a century ago the thoughts of geologists in this country were turned more earnestly than they had ever been before to the great problems of topography, and more particularly to the origin of valleys. In 1862 Jukes published his memorable paper on the *River-Valleys of the South of Ireland*, which may be regarded as the starting-point of all subsequent research on the subject. The following year there appeared the first edition of the *Physical Geology and Geography of Great Britain*, by my former colleague and chief, Sir Andrew C. Ramsay, wherein the potency of denudation as a factor in the evolution of scenery was ably maintained. Papers enforcing similar doctrines were given to the world by my colleagues, Dr. Foster, Mr. Topley, and Mr. Whitaker. Though these views were only a reiteration and more detailed elaboration of the principles laid down by Hutton and Playfair, and were acknowledged to be so by those who espoused them, they encountered much opposition. It was whilst the controversy they evoked