

was in full force that the first edition of the present volume appeared—in 1865.

The two and twenty years which have slipped away since then have witnessed a great change in the attitude of geologists towards questions of topography. The views which, in concert with my colleagues in the Geological Survey, I had been led to adopt from close and constant examination of the evidence, are now accepted as part of the general stock of geological knowledge. For this recognition it is a pleasure to admit that they are largely indebted to the powerful and independent support they have received from the labours of the geologists who, following in the wake of my honoured friend, the veteran Newberry, have, during the last twenty years, been exploring the western regions of the United States. Had the question in dispute been first studied in that marvellous country of mesas and cañons, there would never have been any discussion about it. The truth is there proclaimed with an impressiveness almost bewildering to one whose experience has chiefly lain among the more ancient and convoluted rocks of Western Europe. All the more honour, therefore, to those who found the solution of the problem in the much less favourable field of European geology.

Since this work first appeared a large part of my time has been devoted to a further study of the history of scenery. My official duties have enabled