

and the characteristic strata of the carboniferous system, and between that series of rocks and the constitution of the primitive atmosphere. In this, as in much of what has been stated in this paper we recognise how intimately linked together all natural phenomena and all departments of science are. The various natural sciences are like the crystalline rocks; they graduate into each other, forming, when properly interpreted, a compact, well ordered and harmonious whole.

And while we study and recognise all this, surely it behoves us to acknowledge reverently the great Author of all. The mere external features of primitive districts inspire us with feelings of wonder and awe. Standing on the summit of Gaustafjeld, we can look northward over hundreds of square miles of primitive rocks, forming there the broad, barren plateau of Hardangerfjeld. As far as the eye can reach there is spread out a desert of rocks broken only by the lakes, which form the sources of the turbulent streams that leap down into the fiords of the west and south, or by valleys with precipitous sides, which seem as if hewn out of the solid rock of the plateau beneath the level of its general surface. The scanty and stunted vegetation heightens the desolation of the scene, but nevertheless its rugged grandeur causes the observer to be deeply impressed with his own insignificance, and with the awful power of the Originator of the universe. But how greatly is this feeling deepened when the architecture of these rocks and the mode of their formation is considered. Here we feel our utter littleness even more forcibly; but we at the same time gain some idea of that series of processes and revolutions by which the earth was fitted for man, and of the power and wisdom of the great Designer who caused our present beautiful earth to emerge from the chaos of the primitive period. We also learn enough to exclaim with the Psalmist, "Of old hast Thou laid the foundations of the earth."

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