

to enter into detailed stratographical studies—but in a thousand instances he cast new light on obscure investigations, gathered into a harmonious union detached fragments of evidence, and suggested new conclusions and interpretations. Of this character were, his rearrangement of the carboniferous rocks of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the clear conceptions which he formed of the nature and origin of our post-pliocene formations, which are still, I think, in advance of those currently taught on this side of the Atlantic.

“Limited though his time for observation was, he always seized the salient and important points of any formation or locality, and I have often been struck with the truthfulness and completeness of the sketches which he gave of phenomena, with reference to which his opportunities of collecting information were very imperfect.

“In these American researches, the great gifts of the man were brought out in a light somewhat different from that in which they appear in his general works. The main distinction between Lyell and most of his contemporaries was his eminence as a thinker, whether in inductive or deductive reasoning. Like most of the English geologists of his