

## CHAPTER III

### STUDENT LIFE IN EDINBURGH, AND RELATIONS WITH LYELL AND LOGAN

THUS far no systematic instruction in geology had been accessible to me. All my knowledge had been acquired from books, or by my own observation. My collections and notes, however, already covered some of the more important geological formations of my native province, and I had begun to be regarded in my own locality as an authority on the subject. Other departments of natural history were represented in my collections—birds, insects, and molluscs especially—and I had a considerable herbarium of native plants. I now longed for some means of special instruction ; but in those days scientific schools were to be found only abroad. Thus, after some thought and inquiry, it was decided in our little family council that I should have a session in Edinburgh, where there seemed to be good opportunities for obtaining the training desired.

The journey was undertaken in the autumn