

ousy has seldom if ever—in science—shown such an array of reprehensible acts, and persistence in wrong-doing.

Two geologists alone have had to sustain during forty-five years the repeated assault of the most influential scientific periodical, *The American Journal of Science*, led by its principal editor Mr. J. D. Dana, with the support of Mr. J. Hall and a whole staff of contributors, Sir Roderick L. Murchison among them. What an attempt against the liberty of opinions and observations, and truly against the progress of geology!

Notwithstanding such a powerful obstacle, American geology has progressed, thanks to a few independent and honest observers, who after all have never been entirely extinguished, nor paralyzed by the autocratic dictation and manœuvring of a dominant party whose rules have been to oppose and even suppress all the observations not originated or nursed among its members.

I have done all that was in my power to call the attention of geologists, as well in America as in Europe, to many of the most important questions offered by the North American continent; and if I have not entirely succeeded in freeing American geology of the dictations of an aristocracy so baneful and demoralizing, which has opposed almost all the progress, and prevented as much as it could the expression of all original opinions and observations, I hope, however, that I have not suffered in vain, and that the time has now come when all geologists, on the American continent, will be able to observe and state their results without fear of being ostracized and treated as a *paria*, as was the common fate of Dr. E. Emmons and myself. I do not complain, however, for after all it is no ordinary compliment to have aroused the jealous rancor and ire of all the geologists who have contrived to monopolize and control in their personal interests the researches executed in both hemispheres, and to have passed my life, almost without remuneration of any sort, working all the time for truth, progress, honesty and justice.

I must add, as a great compensation, that I have enjoyed the confidence, the trust, and often the intimate friendship of all the best and most honest geologists and palæontologists. Quoting only the dead: Barrande, Lyell, Louis Agassiz, Ebenezer Emmons, Alcide d'Orbigny, Pictet, Deshayes, d'Omalius d'Halloy, André Dumont, de Koninck, Boué, de Verneuil, Delesse, Fournet,