

to hear this learned scientist repeating pages of sentimental verse, it was still more so to note that not only could he on occasion excel in the art of colorless polite conversation, but invariably excited the admiration of his hearers by his accurate memory for the thousand trifles which form its staple, and, in fact, actually enjoyed it. Nevertheless, a word was enough to divert him from this light pastime, and he would lose the smiling presence which accompanied his badinage and drop by instinct into a thoughtful and well expressed monologue.

He had a keen sense of the humorous and a loud and contagious laugh which inspired in others as much hilarity as the sally which called it forth. His nature was emotional, but controlled by strong and well balanced reasoning power, so that no serious view of his on any scientific subject was influenced by it. It follows that where this reasoning power was not exercised, as in the ordinary small worries and mishaps of life he exhibited an extreme passion, tenderness, or sensitiveness. This characteristic while it enabled him to enjoy much that was unfelt by a coarser nature, was nevertheless, the cause to him of extreme suffering from causes which would have made no impression on most men.

His weaknesses were not those which could detract from his greatness, nor did they contain anything sordid or hateful, while the salient points which distinguished him above others placed him in that indefinable class of great men whose thoughts have moulded our century. It was an instructive lesson in psychology to stand beside him and observe how smoothly and forcefully his mind worked on subjects of the greatest difficulty, and how beautifully it recorded its work in well chosen sentences cadenced to express the smallest variations of meaning, and so beautifully clear as to render further interpretation unnecessary even for the least intelligent of his hearers.

The conversion of Dr. Hunt from the views of Mather, who in 1843 rejected the theory which assumed the Adirondacks or Macomb mountains to be primary gneiss, as described by Maclure in 1817 and afterwards more fully by Amos Eaton in 1832, and substituted another in which a great part of the crystalline rocks of New York, such as the Highlands, and also those of Canada, were considered altered Silurian deposits, gives a good illustration of his fairness and astuteness. While Murray and his official superior,