

The allurements to the study of Geology are many and strong. It opens rich fields of investigation for the inquiring mind. Here the philosopher finds every impulse to research, and the fullest gratification to his longings after wisdom. Here may the Theologian expatiate without limit on new manifestations of the power, wisdom and goodness of the infinite Creator.

With the progress of civilization, Geology has the most intimate association. A knowledge of minerals and metals has done much to give man a mastery over nature. The present state of civilization in both hemispheres would have been impossible without the knowledge which has been gathered from the study of this science.

Considerations both numerous and weighty which the limits of this article would not justify us in specifying, urge the young to devote as much of their leisure time as possible to an acquaintance with this noble study. Whilst, as in all cases, its rudiments are rugged and dry, a little advance into its grand arcana inspires with the most transporting enthusiasm. One monitory, solemn, impressive thought may for the present conclude our reference to this subject. The great stone box of nature as with trumpet tongue in a way both retrospective and prospective speaks of death's long, sad reign. Dynasty after dynasty has been and may yet be swept away. The greater book of Revelation, with like utterance, strong and full, declares "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." But here as elsewhere, Divine benevolence clearly appears. This change, from which we all instinctively shrink, is but a link in the unbroken chain of causation fitting for a higher destiny, for

"That land the eye hath seen,
In visions of enraptured thought."

Mr. Fletcher's Lecture.

ON Tuesday evening, Mr. Fletcher, of Prince Edward Island, editor of the *Island Argus*, delivered a lecture in Academy Hall, under the auspices of the ACADIA ATHENÆUM. The weather was charming, and, no doubt, moon and stars, as well as Mr. Fletcher's reputation, helped to crowd the hall to overflowing. The subject was chosen from Ecclesiastes, chap. ix: 4. "Living dogs and

dead lions." The lecturer proceeded to give examples of dead lions, such as Voltaire, Coleridge, and Byron. He showed how men who might have done much, did but little. He drew a wide distinction between dogs and lions; every man is not a genius. Men who might be living dogs aspire to be lions, and turn out to be dead after all. The pulpit has spoiled many a cobbler; the bar many a farmer. While poverty is an evil thing, and money a blessing, the inordinate desire for gold has made many a wreck. Some of the reasons why there are so many dead lions are: I. Want of physical culture. II. Instability of pursuit. III. Want of decision and lack of will. IV. Squandering time and shirking labor. V. Overwork. The number of living lions was small, but they never die.

This lecture was replete with wit and wisdom. It was practical, pleasing and pertinent. It abounded in telling illustrations, depicting to the eye the moral lessons it wished to inculcate. Now and then a sentence of classical finish and poetic beauty was thrown off, e. g.: "See Mrs. Browning sweeping all the chords of human passion with fingers that trembled with the pressure of inspiration,—who soared and sang as never woman soared and sang before,—whose words leapt from her mouth like a bird radiant in plumage and glorious in music,—her whole being throbbing and sparkling like the sea." There were many finely eloquent passages throughout. Mr. Fletcher took pains to express his admiration of H. W. Beecher, as a man admirable in genius and pure in morals. The lecture displayed a mind well-read, capable of conceiving a thing clearly and expressing it tersely and sharply. The sentences were pregnant with meaning, and there were no loose fringes hanging on them. The audience manifested their sympathy and delight by rounds of hearty applause. We shall be happy to listen to Mr. Fletcher again, at some future time, confident that we shall be amply satisfied.

Two Sides of Life.

Everywhere throughout the vast scene of life, we behold sunshine mingled with shade. On all sides we hear sounds of woe mingled with strains of joy and gladness. Some lives appear to be all sunshine, all joyous, though