

University museum, and, providing myself with Maclaren's excellent book on the local geology, made frequent excursions in the vicinity of the city, both for exercise and practice in observation. I also read extensively in the library, making notes, abstracts, and drawings from books to which I could not have had access at home. The results of this winter's study were most valuable to me. Jameson, my principal geological teacher, devoted a large part of his earlier lectures to physical geography, and the remainder mostly to minerals and rocks, and it happened that these were just the points in which I was weakest. Later on, I was surprised to find how little even some of the more eminent English geologists of that day seemed to know of mineralogy, and consequently how uncertain was their diagnosis in the field, of the nature of rock masses. At the same time, I regretted that I could not obtain any systematic instruction in palæontology, in geological surveying, and in some other important subjects.

It became imperative for me to leave Edinburgh in the spring of 1841, but I determined, if possible, to return to complete what I had there begun. I knew that, in the meantime, I should become more fully aware of my defi-