

# **THE PHILOSOPHY OF GEOLOGY**

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The Philosophy of Geology by A. C. G. Jobert

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**A. C. G. JOBERT**

# **THE PHILOSOPHY OF GEOLOGY**



THE PHILOSOPHY  
OR  
G E O L O G Y.

BY  
A. C. G. JOBERT,

*Late Editor of the 'Journal de Géologie,' one of the Authors of 'Recherches  
sur les Ossements Fossiles du Puy-de-Dôme.'*

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"We know all things begin from and end in His everlasting Essence, the  
Cause of causes, the Power of Powers."

~~~~~  
SIR HENRY DAVY

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1847.

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TO

SIR RODERICK IMPEY MURCHISON,

V. P. R. S. and G. S., Hon. F. R. S. Ed., Hon. Mem. R. L. Ac., Cor.  
ROYAL INST. OF FRANCE, PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, &c.

MY DEAR SIR RODERICK,

THE plan of this little book has been long sketched, but the conclusions have only been deduced after an attentive examination of the labours of the geologists, during the twelve years which have elapsed, since I fixed my residence in England. Your work on *Russia* has completed the information which was wanting to decide the great question of a general primitive basis. Before the publication of that work, I found it impossible to ground my conclusions on positive geological facts, though my opinion had for a long time previously been fixed, as to the *igneous stratification* of the gneiss and mica-

schist which form the superior part of the inorganic basis of the terrestrial globe.

Having studied in retirement, the ideas which I now offer to the public are the conscientious result of long meditation. In arranging them I have only yielded to the impulse of my own judgment, free from external considerations; and it was but after having again perused the manuscript, and remarking that your name appears, several times, almost in every chapter, that the idea occurred to me of inscribing the book to you, as an act of simple justice and a tribute of the sincere admiration and high esteem, with which

I remain,

My dear Sir Roderick,

Your very humble and obedient Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

LONDON, *January 25, 1847.*



## P R E F A C E

### TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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IN the preface to the first edition of this little book, I remarked, that "it was at first written partly in English and partly in French; and that having translated the French part into English, I intended to publish the whole in the latter language only; but I was so dissatisfied with my own translation, that I shrunk from the idea of making it the original work, and determined to publish the book in the French language also." Five hundred copies were printed both in French and in English; but I soon discovered that it would be very difficult to sell the French part through the usual channels of the book trade, viz.—with the assistance of the publishers, and by advertising only;—and being averse to the work being judged solely from the perusal of my English version, I had a number of prospectuses, containing an extract of the heads of chapters, circulated amongst the members of the principal scientific and literary societies of England. This succeeded beyond my expectations. After a few weeks' circulation, the prospectuses were returned

to me with names of subscribers for no less than three hundred and fifty copies, for both the English and French bound together. These, with the copies sent to newspapers and reviews, left only about one hundred copies of the English, which being advertised, were soon exhausted; and the demand of the trade rendered it necessary to publish the present edition.

After the publication of the First Part; the seventh edition of Mr. C. Lyell's 'Principles of Geology' made its appearance, and in this last edition the theory of *actual causes* is unreservedly and most strictly adhered to; so that the views which I have sketched in the present work are still more strongly contrasted with the doctrine of the eternity of the established order of nature. Thus, between the philosophy of *no creation = no creator* and that of a beginning of the world, through the *fiat* of the Almighty, every one has now a fair opportunity of judging and making a choice.

To the subscribers I return my most sincere thanks; and especially to those kind friends who headed the subscription list, and assisted me in the publication of the book, my gratitude is due. I hope it will be found that I have not laboured in vain, and that some beneficial result will follow from the diffusion of the doctrines which I maintain. The consciousness of having done good is the best reward of mental exertion.

## P R E F A C E

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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THIS little book was at first written partly in English and partly in French. Having translated the French part into English, I intended to publish the whole in the latter language only; but I was so dissatisfied with my own translation, that I shrunk from the idea of making it the original work, and determined to publish the book in the French language also. Thus I have been reminded, that though now in the habit of clothing my thoughts in a foreign dress, the native forms have still the preponderance in my mind, and that, even when breathing the free air of hospitable England, I must not forget that I am still a Frenchman.

Geologists acquainted with the French language should procure in preference the French version, as it conveys a more accurate expression of my ideas, and critics should compare both texts.

*London, July 13th, 1846.*