

ASTRONOMY AND GEOLOGY COMPARED

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Astronomy and Geology Compared by John Benn Walsh Ormathwaite

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JOHN BENN WALSH ORMATHWAITE

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GEOLOGY
COMPARED**

Anal.

ASTRONOMY AND GEOLOGY

COMPARED

John Denis-Weisse, Baron.
By LORD ORMATHWAITE

C
LONDON

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET

1872

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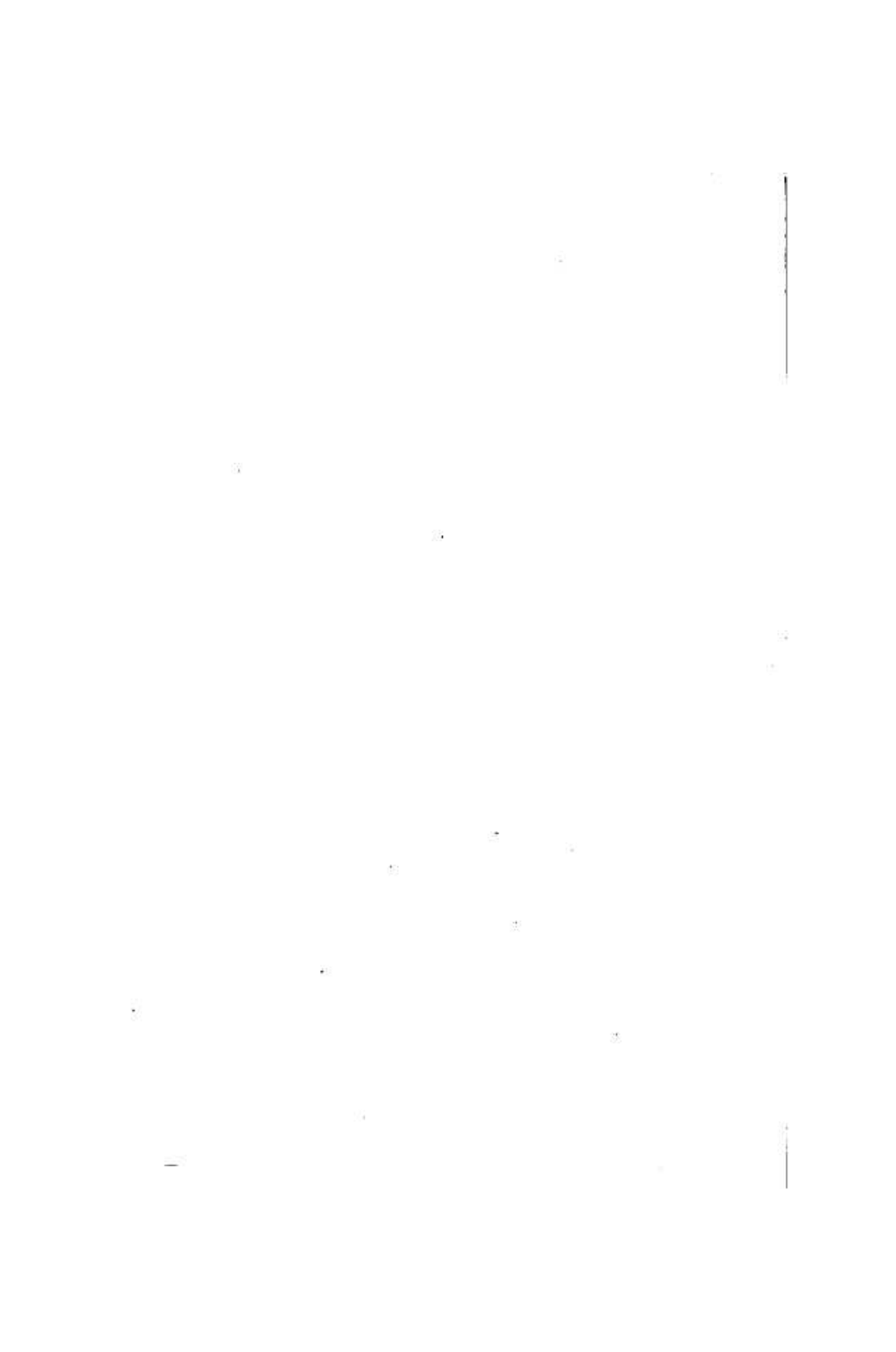
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1873, Sept. 30.
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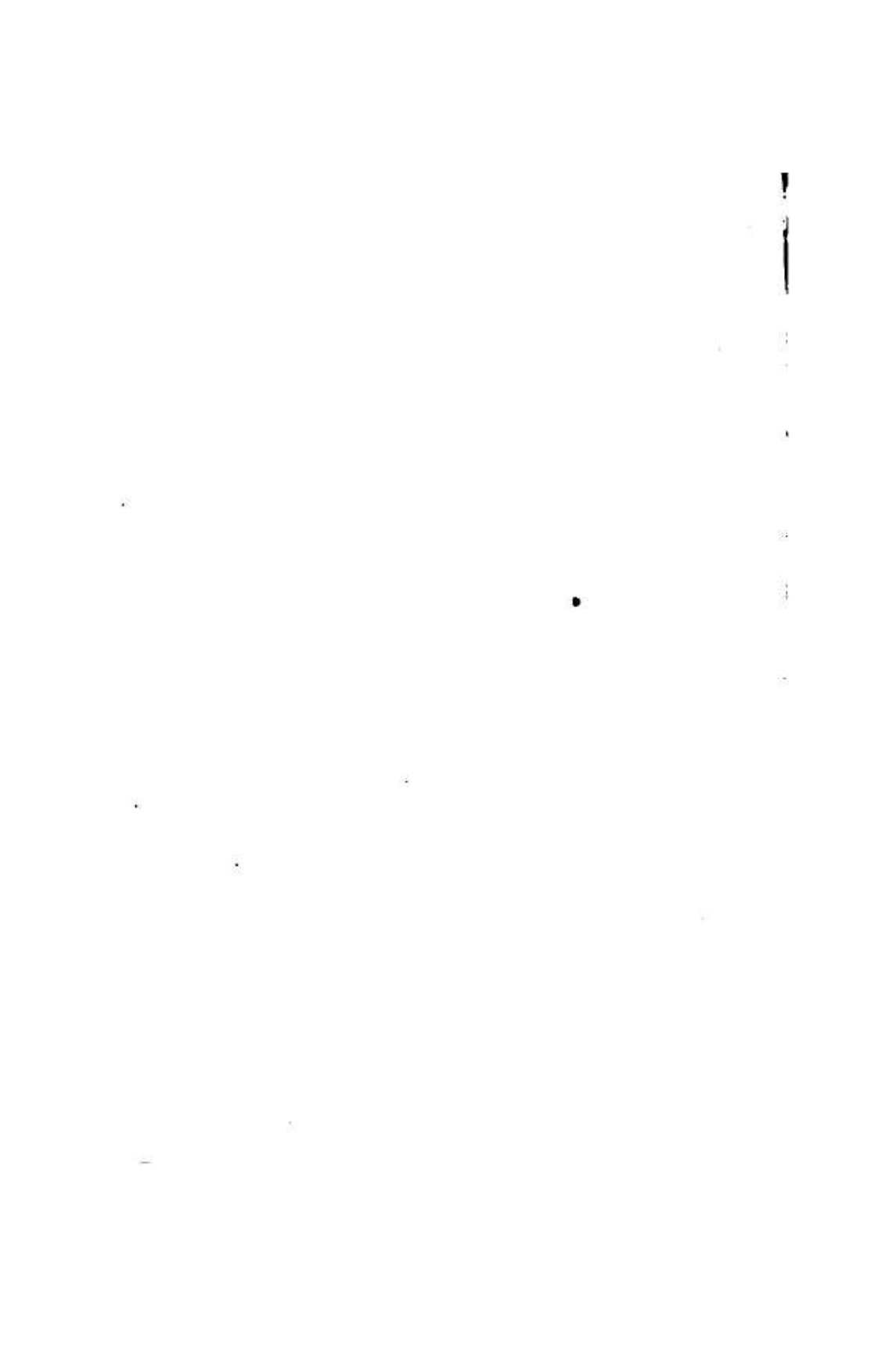
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I MUST PREFACE these pages by a few words of explanation. The decay of my eye-sight has within the last year incapacitated me from reading or writing. Cut off by this affliction from my usual mental employments, I have found relief and occupation to my thoughts in dictating these essays to a short-hand writer. This mode of writing will excuse any inaccuracies or mistakes which I may have committed.

WARFIELD PARK, BRACENELL :

December 1, 1871.



ASTRONOMY AND GEOLOGY COMPARED.

THERE is a certain affinity between these two sciences : they have this feature in common—that each in its respective province extends the intellectual vision of Man far beyond the limits of his present mortal existence. They enable him to comprehend a vast portion of those two great infinities of time and of space by which he is surrounded. How wonderful that a being so ephemeral, whose life is compressed within the bounds of some seventy or eighty years at the utmost, and is cribbed and tethered to a narrow spot on this earth's surface, should thus be enabled to traverse in thought such a boundless area ! Our first sentiment is perhaps one of melancholy and discouragement. When we contrast our own nothingness with the immensity of the Universe, which these sciences disclose to us, how infinitesimally small we