

**AN ETYMOLOGICAL AND
EXPLANATORY DICTIONARY OF THE
TERMS AND LANGUAGE OF GEOLOGY,
DESIGNED FOR THE EARLY STUDENT,
AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT MADE
PROGRESS IN THAT SCIENCE**

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An Etymological and Explanatory Dictionary of the Terms and Language of Geology, Designed for the Early Student, and Those Who Have Not Made Progress in That Science by George Roberts

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GEORGE ROBERTS

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AN
ETYMOLOGICAL
AND
EXPLANATORY DICTIONARY
OF
THE TERMS AND LANGUAGE
OF
GEOLOGY;

DESIGNED FOR
THE EARLY STUDENT, AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT MADE
GREAT PROGRESS IN THAT SCIENCE.

BY
GEORGE ROBERTS,
AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF LYME REGIS," AND MASTER OF
A GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN THAT TOWN.

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TO
THOSE GENTLEMEN
WHO HAVE BEEN UNDER HIS CARE,
THIS LITTLE WORK,
AN EARNEST OF HIS DESIRE TO PROMOTE THE
SPREAD OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE,
IS DEDICATED,
BY
THEIR SINCERE WELL WISHER,
THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

WITHIN a very inconsiderable period, Geology, the physical history of our globe, and the sister science of Astronomy, has become an object of almost universal attention and very general study by the youth of both sexes. In most books of travels, topography, works of scientific projects, year books, parliamentary reports, &c., the terms and language of Geology appear, sometimes without any, rarely with more than partial explanation. Mr. Lyell, in his admirable work in three volumes, has devoted several pages to a glossary, and the author here begs to acknowledge his obligation to that eminent geologist. Other works contain very brief notices of terms, generally without any etymological explana-

tion. The words alphabetically arranged in this little work were found diffused among many treatises and publications on Geology; they are here brought under one head, and many chemical, botanical, mineralogical, and scientific terms of constant occurrence are added from having been met with in immediate connection with the subject, which is one that is hourly becoming more extended in its views and objects. The advanced geologist would, doubtless, like to find every thing that his science can possibly embrace herein — genus, order, species, class, &c.; or, in other words, would desire a large volume of quite a different character from that which has been the aim of the author. Young persons who are beginning to read and think of Geology, and those who have not kept up their reading on the same head, will find this book useful: many who pretend to no knowledge on the subject whatever, may be glad to refer to an isolated word, which, till explained, renders a whole passage unintelligible. In some parts of France it is believed that an English lad never requires any nautical instruction, that, in fact, he is born a mariner,

and knows, by instinct, the difference between bowlines, bobstays, haulyards, and other ropes. This is not the case any more than that the extensive nomenclature and terms of Geology can be acquired without some attention being paid to them. This is necessary in the present day in order to enter upon theological reading. "The Creation and Geology" form one third of a work in 8vo., entitled "Scriptural Studies," by the Rev. W. H. Tucker, A. M.; which may be cited as a proof that many are confronted by such technical expressions as *transition series*, *igneous rocks*, *oolitic strata*, *heterocercal fishes*, &c., who perhaps little contemplated geological reading, and who are probably not prepared in an etymological view with the means of surmounting these and similar difficulties. The language of Geology has a great advantage over that of Mineralogy. The nomenclature of the latter has been a fertile subject of complaint, as offering no facility either to the acquirement or retention of that branch of knowledge, whereas that of the former does this in an eminent degree. Of the words some are : —

1. Greek ; as *hybodus*.
2. Latin ; as *mammifer*.
3. Greek and Latin ; as { *mammalogy* and
nummulite.*
4. German ; as *wacke*.
5. French ; as *nacre*.
6. Italian ; as *scaglia*.
7. Ancient Saxon ; as *brash*.
8. Local terms and corruptions ; as *lias*.
9. From the names } *Bucklandi, Béchei, Mur-*
of discoverers ; as } *chisoni, &c.*
10. Named from localities ; as { *Paulite, Stron-*
tium.
11. But comparatively } *Uranium, Titanium*.
few fanciful ; as }

Some may suppose that an accomplished gentleman has no occasion for this work ; but if he is unacquainted with Geology, it will be found there is a knowledge of the subject required besides an acquaintance with the actual derivation of the words. Let us take as an illustration the word *ANTHRACOTHERIUM*.

The possessor of *scholarship*, or *learning*,

* Terms compounded of Greek and Latin words are styled hybrids.