"the *Gryphites* oyster is not only found abundantly in the lower part of Monmouthshire and about Purton Passage, but also extends in considerable aggregates along the neighbouring midland counties; having myself traced them, either in gravel or limestone, through Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire, occupying in like manner the lower parts of those counties, under the hills."[1] It would thus appear that the outcrop of the Lias had been traced, by means of its fossils, across a great part of England some years before William Smith began his labours.

There were two regions of Europe well fitted to furnish any competent inquirers with the evidence for establishing, by means of fossil organic remains, this supremely important section of modern geology. In France, the Secondary and Tertiary formations lie in undisturbed succession, one above another, over hundreds of square miles. They come to the surface, not obscured under superficial deposits, but projecting their escarpments to the day, and showing, by their topographical contours, the sharply defined limits of their several groups. Again, in England, the same formations cover the southern and eastern parts of the country, displaying everywhere the same clear evidence of their arrangement. Let us trace the progress of discovery in each of these regions. To a large extent this progress was simultaneous, but there is no evidence that the earlier workers in the one country were aware of what was being done in the other.

[1] *Archaeologia*, vol. vi. (1782), p. 36.