

to its old site would not bring back its old shells. The course of time has destroyed the species, and they are no longer to be found in the more recent rocks.”¹

The sagacity of these views will at once be acknowledged. Yet they seem to have made, for a time, no way either in France or elsewhere. The worthy Abbé, though a good observer and a logical reasoner, was a singularly bad writer. At the end of the eighteenth century a wretched style was an unpardonable offence even in a man of science.² Whatever may have been the cause, Giraud-Soulavie has fallen into the background. His fame has been eclipsed, even in France, by the more brilliant work of his successors. Yet, in any general survey of geological progress, it is only just to acknowledge how firmly he had grasped some of the fundamental truths of stratigraphical geology, at a time when the barren controversy about the origin of basalt was the main topic of geological discussion throughout Europe.

We have seen that the distinctness, regularity, and persistence of the outcrops of the various geological formations of the Paris basin suggested to Guettard the first idea of depicting on maps the geographical distribution of rocks and minerals. The same region and the same features of topography and structure inspired long afterwards a series of researches that contributed in large measure to the establishment of the principles of geological stratigraphy. No fitter birthplace could be found in Europe for the rise of

¹ *Op. cit.* tome vii. (1784), p. 157.

² D'Archiac, *Géologie et Paléontologie*, 1866, p. 145.