

himself that the stratigraphical succession, which he had worked out for a small part of the south-west of England, had an important bearing on scientific questions, besides many practical applications of importance. But it needed to be extended and checked by a wider experience. "No journey, purposely contrived," so he wrote, "could have better answered my purpose. To sit forward on the chaise was a favour readily granted; my eager eyes were never idle a moment; and post-haste travelling only put me upon new resources. General views, under existing circumstances, were the best that could have been taken, and the facility of knowing, by contours and other features, what might be the kind of stratification in the hills is a proof of early advancement in the generalisation of phenomena.

"In the more confined views, where the roads commonly climb to the summits, as in our start from Bath to Tetbury, by Swanswick, the slow driving up the steep hills afforded me distinct views of the nature of the rocks; rushy pastures on the slopes of the hills, the rivulets and kind of trees, all aided in defining the intermediate clays; and while occasionally walking to see bridges, locks, and other works, on the lines of canal, more particular observations could be made.

"My friends being both concerned in working coal, were interested in two objects; but I had three, and the most important one to me I pursued unknown to them; though I was continually talking about the rocks and other strata, they seemed not desirous of knowing the guiding principles or objects of these