

with tables of sands and clays, such chiefly as are found in the north parts of England, drawn up about ten years since, and delivered to the Royal Society, March 12, 1683, by the Learned Martin Lister, M.D.”¹ In this “soile or mineral map” it was proposed that “the soile might either be coloured or otherwise distinguished by variety of lines or etchings, but the great care must be, very exactly to note upon the map where such and such soiles are bounded.” By the term ‘soil’ Lister meant not only the vegetable soil at the surface, but the sub-soil and rocks underneath. “For I am of opinion,” he remarks, “such upper soiles, if natural, infallibly produce such under minerals, and, for the most part, in such order.” “If the limits of each soile appeared upon a map, something more might be comprehended from the whole and from every part, than I can possibly foresee; but I leave this to the industry of future times.”

Lister’s proposal, however, does not seem to have been followed by any practical result for some two generations. In the year 1743, there was published in England what is believed to be the earliest specimen of a geological map, under the title of “A new Philosophico-Chorographical Chart of East Kent, invented and delineated by Christopher Packe, M.D.” The author sent a letter on the subject to the Royal Society, and accompanied his Chart with a tract wherein he states that his undertaking “is no dream or devise, the offspring of a sportive imagination, conceived and produced for want of something else

¹ *Phil. Trans.* vol. xiv. p. 739.