

whom the copyright of the first edition of those volumes was transferred gratis (see p. 63).

The first volume of the *Transactions* of the Geological Society was published in quarto in the year 1811. The motto, then adopted by the Council, had been chosen by Dr. Laird from the preface to Bacon's 'Novum Organum,' and was printed on the title-page as follows :—

Quod si cui mortalium cordi et curæ sit, non tantum inventis hærerere, atque iis uti, sed ad ulteriora penetrare; atque non disputando adversarium, sed opere naturam vincere; denique non belle et probabiliter opinari, sed certo et ostensive scire; tales, tanquam veri scientiarum filii, nobis (si videbitur) se adjungant; ut omissis naturæ atriis, quæ infiniti contriverunt, aditus aliquando ad interiora patefiat.<sup>1</sup>

'But if any human being earnestly desire to push on to new discoveries instead of just retaining and using the old; to win victories over Nature as a worker rather than over hostile critics as a disputant; to attain, in fact, to clear and demonstrative knowledge instead of attractive and probable theory; we invite him as a true son of Science to join our ranks, if he will, that, without lingering in the forecourts of Nature's temple, trodden already by the crowd, we may open at last for all the approach to her inner shrine.'<sup>2</sup>

If the contents of the first volume were remarkable for their variety and importance, the illustrations in this and in many subsequent volumes would at the present time alarm any committee of publication and treasurer.

The volume, illustrated by twenty-five plates, some pictorial, was commenced by Macculloch with a paper on the Channel Islands. The other essays on home geology were by Henry Holland on the Cheshire salt district; Berger on the structure of Devon and Cornwall (the results of a tour in 1809, in company with L. A. Necker), and on the geology of Hants and Dorset; Arthur Aikin on the Wrekin and Shrop-

<sup>1</sup> The motto has been continued on the title-page of the *Quarterly Journal* since 1860; but the last portion after *adjungant* has been omitted.

<sup>2</sup> The above translation has been kindly supplied by Mr. P. Simpson, M.A. (Cantab.).