

Of the several sheets of the map, Buckland observed that 'they are more beautiful in their execution, more accurate in their details, and more instructive in the economical and scientific information they give respecting mines, than any maps yet published by any government in the world.'<sup>1</sup>

De la Beche's classic 'Report on the Geology of Cornwall, Devon, and West Somerset' was published also in 1839, before the term Devonian had been introduced; but this term he adopted in a later publication, remarking that 'in Cornwall and Devon there may be equivalents both of the Carboniferous limestone above, and of the higher parts of the Silurian rocks beneath, also included in this system.'<sup>2</sup>

De la Beche knew in 1839 of the discovery made by C. W. Peach<sup>3</sup> of *Orthis* and other fossils in the quartzites of Gorran Haven in Cornwall. Some years elapsed, however, before the specimens were recognised to be of Bala or Caradoc age; but this determination did not modify the belief that the greater part of the slaty series in West Cornwall was Devonian, although no boundary line could then be drawn between that series and the older rocks.<sup>4</sup>

The Devonian system had no definite base, while its upper limits were as yet but ill-defined; facts which allowed room for considerable controversy at later periods.

While arrangements were in progress for the establishment of the Geological Survey in England and Wales, Joseph Elliston Portlock (1794-1864), captain of Royal Engineers, was conducting the Geological Branch of the Ordnance Survey in Ireland. He has told how Colonel Colby, at the commencement of the Trigonometrical Survey, expressed his opinion 'that the Topo-

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Geol. Soc.* iii. pp. 221, 227.

<sup>2</sup> *Mem. Geol. Survey*, vol. i. 1846, p. 50.

<sup>3</sup> Charles William Peach (1800-1886) was at the time riding-officer of H. M. Customs. A biography of him, with portrait, was given by Dr. Samuel Smiles in his 'Life of Robert Dick,' 1878, pp. 238-58.

<sup>4</sup> Sedgwick, *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* viii. pp. 3, 10, 17, &c.; see also J. B. Hill in 'Geology of Falmouth,' &c., *Mem. Geol. Survey*, 1906, p. 3.