

the economy of mines, and surveying of ground in order to building, road-making, and agriculture; besides the firm foundation which he laid for geological science. But, with the most open and ready generosity, he communicated all, to men of science and to the world at large.\* He constructed the first Geological Map that was worthy of the name, opening the way to Mr. Greenough's disinterested labours; he gave to the world several and most valuable works on the systematic relations of Organized Fossils; and he deposited in the British Museum, for universal instruction, the Collection which verified his doctrines. Long may he enjoy, in his retirement, the happiness most congenial to his liberal mind, and add to that the sublime joys of Christian piety and heavenly anticipation!—But from this tribute of justice, I must return.

Upon this great fact, which Professor Sedgwick happily calls “the Master-Principle of our Science,”† the

\* In and before 1799, “By maps and sections, and arranged collections of Organic Remains, Mr. Smith endeavoured to explain to many scientific persons those views regarding the regular succession and continuity of strata, and the definite distribution of animal and vegetable forms in the earth, which are now the common property of Geology. Among those who heard his explanations at this early period, may be mentioned Dr. James Anderson of Edinburgh, Mr. Davis of Longleat, the Rev. Joseph Townsend [of Pewsey,]—and the Rev. B. Richardson of Farley. The two last mentioned gentlemen were remarkably able to appreciate the truth and novelty of such views, from both their general attainments in Natural History, and their exact knowledge of the country [Somersetshire and Wiltshire] to which Mr. Smith directed their attention. Both of them possessed large collections of Organic Remains; and both were astonished and incredulous when their new friend, taking up one fossil after another, *stated instantly from what particular rock, and even bed of stone or clay, the specimens were derived.* Nor were they less surprised when in the field, *Stratum Smith* (as he was termed) traced with ease and accuracy the ranges of the rocks, by following the courses of springs, and many other indications of a change of the substrata.” Biogr. Notice, by Prof. Phillips, in Mr. Charlesworth's Magazine of Natural History. May, 1839; p. 216.

† Proceedings of Geol. Soc. Feb. 18. 1831.