

Since that period, Descriptive Geology in England has constantly advanced. The advance has been due mainly to the labors of the members of the Geological Society ; on whose merits as cultivators of their science, none but those who are themselves masters of the subject, have a right to dwell. Yet some parts of the scientific character of these men may be appreciated by the general speculator ; for they have shown that there are no talents and no endowments which may not find their fitting employment in this science. Besides that they have united laborious research and comprehensive views, acuteness and learning, zeal and knowledge ; the philosophical eloquence with which they have conducted their discussions has had a most beneficial influence on the tone of their speculations ; and their researches in the field, which have carried them into every country and every class of society, have given them that prompt and liberal spirit, and that open and cordial bearing, which results from intercourse with the world on a large and unfettered scale. It is not too much to say, that in our time, Practical Geology has been one of the best schools of philosophical and general culture of mind.

*Sect. 2.—Application of Systematic Geology. Geological Surveys and Maps.*

SUCH surveys as that which Conybeare and Phillips's book presented with respect to England, were not only a means of disseminating the knowledge implied in the classifications of such a work, but they were also an essential part of the Application and Extension of the principles established by the founders of Systematic Geology. As soon as the truth of such a system was generally acknowledged, the persuasion of the propriety of geological surveys and maps of each country could not but impress itself on men's minds.

When the earlier writers, as Lister and Fontenelle, spoke of mineralogical and fossilological maps, they could hardly be said to know the meaning of the terms which they thus used. But when subsequent classifications had shown how such a suggestion might be carried into effect, and to what important consequences it might lead, the task was undertaken in various countries in a vigorous and consistent manner. In England, besides Smith's map, another, drawn up by Mr. Greenough, was published by the Geological Society in 1819 ; and, being founded on very numerous observations of the author and his friends, made with great labor and cost, was not only an important