

The first sentences of his remarkable *Mémoire et Carte Minéralogique* are well worth quoting. "If nothing," he remarks, "can contribute more towards the formation of a physical and general theory of the earth than the multiplication of observations among the different kinds of rocks and the fossils which they contain, assuredly nothing can make us more sensible of the utility of such a research than to bring together into one view those various observations by the construction of mineralogical maps. I have travelled with the view of gaining instruction on the first of these two points, and following the recommendation of the Academy, which wished to have my work expressed on a map, I have prepared such a map, which contains a summary of all my observations."

The idea of depicting the distribution of the mineral products of a country upon a map was not original with Guettard or the Academy of Sciences. It will be pointed out in a subsequent chapter that, as far back as the later years of the previous century, a scheme of this kind was submitted to the Royal Society of London by Martin Lister.<sup>1</sup> There is no evidence, however, that this scheme was known to Guettard, who, though he obtained a large amount of information about English mineral products, probably derived it all from French translations of English works. He does not appear to have read English. Guettard inferred, from his observations over the centre and north of France, that the several bands of rocks and minerals which he had detected were disposed round Paris as

<sup>1</sup> The early history of geological map-making is briefly outlined in chapter xiv. of the present volume.