work of the Academy, it occupies a conspicuous place. The official record announced that a new application of geography had been inaugurated by the author, who, neglecting the political limits traced on maps, sought to group the different regions of the earth according to the nature of the substances that lie beneath the surface. "The work of M. Guettard," it is further remarked, "opens up a new field for geographers and naturalists, and forms, so to speak, a link between two sciences which have hitherto been regarded as entirely independent of each other."[1]

I have dwelt at some length on this early work of Guettard because of its importance in the history of geological cartography. These maps, so far as I know, were the first ever constructed to express the superficial distribution of minerals and rocks. The gifted Frenchman who produced them is thus the father of all the national Geological Surveys which have been instituted by the various civilised nations of the Old and the New Worlds.

This effort in mineralogical map-making was merely the beginning of Guettard's labours in this department of investigation. "If you will only let me have a proper map of France," he used to say, "I will undertake to show on it the mineral formations underneath." When Cassini's map appeared, it enabled him to put his design into execution. After incredible exertions, during which he had the illustrious chemist Lavoisier[2] as an assistant, he completed

[1] *Mém. Acad. Roy. Sciences*, 1751 ; *Journal*, p. 105.

[2] See on the subject of Lavoisier's co-operation, D'Archiac's *Paléontologie Stratigraphique*, p. 290, and *postea*, p. 343.