

He now began to observe more carefully their distribution, and came at last to perceive that, certainly among the formations with which he had to deal, "each stratum contained organized fossils peculiar to itself, and might, in cases otherwise doubtful, be recognized and discriminated from others like it, but in a different part of the series, by examination of them."¹

It was while engaged in the construction of this canal that Smith began to arrange his observations for publication. He had a methodical habit of writing out his notes and reflections, and dating them. But he had not the art of condensing his material, and arranging it in literary form. Nevertheless, he could not for a moment doubt that the results which he had arrived at would be acknowledged by the public to possess both scientific importance and practical value. Much of his work was inserted upon maps, wherein he traced the position and range of each of the several groups of rock with which he had become familiar. He had likewise ample notes of local sections, and complete evidence of a recognisable succession among the rocks. Not only could he identify the strata by their fossils, but he could point out to the surveyors, contractors, and other practical men with whom he came in contact, how useful in many kinds of undertakings was the detailed knowledge which he had now acquired. In agriculture, in mining, in road-making, in draining, in the construction of canals, in questions of water-supply, and in many other affairs of everyday life, he was able

¹ *Memoirs*, p. 15.