

of his business. "Having thus emptied his pockets for what he deemed a public object, he was forced to make up, by night-travelling, the time he had lost, so as not to fail in his professional engagements."

Stimulated by the kindly urgency of his friend Richardson, who alarmed him by pointing out that if he did not publish his observations, some one else might anticipate him, Smith was prevailed upon to draw up a prospectus of a work in which he proposed to give a detailed account of the various strata of England and Wales, with an accompanying map and sections. A publisher in London was named, and the prospectus was extensively circulated ; but it led to nothing.

Eventually Smith established himself in London as the best centre for his professional work, and in 1805 he took a large house there, with room for the display of his collections and maps, which were open to the inspection of any one interested in such matters. Among his materials he had completed a large county map of Somersetshire, as a specimen of what might be done for the different counties of England. This document seems to have been exhibited at the Board of Agriculture, and a proposal was made that he should be permanently attached to the corps of engineers then engaged in surveying the island. But the idea never went farther. Not until thirty years later was it revived by De la Beche, and pressed with such perseverance as to lead in the end to the establishment of the present Geological Survey of Great Britain.

From 1799, when Smith first contemplated the publication of his observations, every journey that he took was as far as possible made subservient to the