

completion of his map of England. At last, but not until the end of the year 1812, he found a publisher enterprising enough to undertake the risk of engraving and publishing this map. The work was begun in January 1813, and was published in August 1815.¹ It was appropriately dedicated to Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society, who had encouraged and helped the author.

William Smith's map has long since taken its place among the great classics of geological cartography. It was the first attempt to portray on such a scale not merely the distribution, but the stratigraphy of the formations of a whole country. Well might D'Aubuisson say of it that "what the most distinguished mineralogists during a period of half a century had done for a little part of Germany, had been undertaken and accomplished for the whole of England by one man; and his work, as fine in its results as it is astonishing in its extent, demonstrates that England is regularly divided into strata, the order of which is never inverted, and that the same species of fossils are found in the same stratum even at wide distances."²

But it is not so much as a cartographical achievement that Smith's great map deserves our attention at present. Its appearance marked a distinct epoch in stratigraphical geology, for from that time some of what are now the most familiar terms in geological nomenclature passed into common use. Smith had no scholarship; he did not even cull euphonious terms

¹ For the title and description of the map see p. 452, where reference will be found to the map of G. B. Greenough.

² *Traité de Géognosie* (1819), tome ii. p. 253.