

means of dealing in like fashion with the rocks of the same age in other countries, there seemed no reason why the palæontological succession, found to distinguish the greywacke in England and Wales, should not be equally serviceable among the Transition rocks of Europe and even of America. And if this result should be achieved, Murchison might fairly claim that he had added a series of new and earlier chapters to the geological history of the globe.

The various brief communications to the Geological Society, after the first discoveries in 1831, though they had made geologists familiar with the main results of Murchison's work, only increased their desire to know the detailed observations on which his generalisations were founded, and more particularly to have complete information as to the assemblages of organic remains which he had discovered. Previous collections from the Transition rocks were generally of little service for stratigraphical purposes, because those of widely separate horizons had all been mixed together. But Murchison's specimens had been carefully gathered, with the view of sustaining his classification, and for the purpose of forming a basis of comparison between the Transition rocks of Britain and those of other countries. Early in the course of his wanderings along the Welsh border, he had been urged to prepare a full and more generally accessible account of his labours than was offered in the publications of a learned Society. Accordingly, adding this task to his other engagements, he toiled at the making of a big book, until at last, towards the end of the year 1838, that is, about seven years from the time when he broke ground by the