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as a national undertaking. In the year 1820 a copy of Greenough's map of England and Wales having been sent to the *École des Mines* at Paris, the desire arose to provide France with a similar compendium of its geology. Accordingly two engineers of the Mines Department, *Élie de Beaumont* (1798-1874) and *Dufrénoy*, were, in 1822, sent to England, where they spent six months studying the principles on which the English map had been constructed, and other subjects connected with the project. The map of France, begun in 1825 and completed in 1840, consisted of six sheets on the scale of about eight miles to an inch. This great work, so rapidly carried out, remains as a remarkable monument of the genius of the two geologists under whose supervision it was constructed.

The most important impulse towards the complete and methodical investigation of the geology of wide regions of the earth's surface has been given by the institution of State surveys for the express purpose of constructing geological maps of entire countries, combined with the determination of the character and distribution of useful minerals, and with the formation of large collections of rocks, minerals and fossils. Great Britain led the way in this line of national effort, by inaugurating in 1835, at the instigation and under the personal supervision of *Henry Thomas de la Beche*, a Geological Survey of the British Isles, together with a School of Mines and a Mining Record Office. The objects of the Geological Survey were to ascertain and depict on maps, as accurately and in as much detail as possible, on the scale of one inch to an English mile (or $\frac{1}{63360}$), the geological structure of the country,