

## CHAPTER II

ORIGIN, FOUNDATION, AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE  
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE ASKESIAN SOCIETY—THE BRITISH MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY—THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, ITS FOUNDERS AND THEIR AIMS—PATRON—REGULATIONS, COMMITTEES, AND RESOLUTIONS—EARLY PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS—NOMENCLATURE—APARTMENTS IN TEMPLE—PROPOSAL TO CONSOLIDATE THE GEOLOGICAL WITH THE ROYAL SOCIETY—MAPS—MUSEUM AND LIBRARY—APARTMENTS IN LINCOLN'S-INN FIELDS—TRUSTEES—THE FIRST COUNCIL

TOWARDS the close of the eighteenth century, several small scientific societies were formed in London, for the purpose of mutual improvement in the different branches of natural philosophy. Of these, the Askesian Society and the British Mineralogical Society are of especial interest, as among their more prominent members were the founders of the Geological Society.

The Askesian Society was formed in March 1796 'by some young men desirous, as its name imports, to improve themselves mutually by philosophical exercises. The objects were to elucidate, by experiment, either facts generally understood, or to examine and repeat any novel discoveries. The meetings were held twice every month, during the winter season. Each member, in turn, was expected to produce a paper for reading and discussion upon some subject of scientific (not literary) inquiry, and many of these papers were afterwards published in Tilloch's *Philosophical Magazine*. Amongst the early members were William Allen, William Phillips, Luke Howard, Joseph Fox, Henry Lawson, Arthur Arch, W. H. Pepys, and Samuel Woods, the last of whom was president. Astley Cooper, Dr. Babington, A. Tilloch, Joseph Woods,