> what may be called *geological experiments*.' . . . 'Nothing, for instance, could be more instructive than to know how deep the alluvial ground reaches which we find in the beds of rivers, and especially near their mouths; and in what proportion this depth decreases, as we approach the mountains. This is one of the points on which Nature herself rarely affords full information; which, however, might be obtained by the simple operation of boring in proper situations.'
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> 'The succession of the rocks, as we descend, might be determined in the same manner in those countries where the strata are horizontal and unbroken, and where, of course, Nature seldom affords the means of making such observations. The junction or contact of different kinds of rock is one of the objects most interesting to a geologist; but, how often does he come within a few hundred yards, nay, in some cases, within a few feet, of that junction, and yet is unable to discover the exact line, on account of a quantity of earth or gravel which is not to be removed without more time and expense than he can afford to bestow!'

The second volume of *Transactions*, issued in 1814, three years after the first volume, was illustrated with 39 plates. It contains the classic paper by Thomas Webster, 'On the Freshwater Formations in the Isle of Wight, with some observations on the Strata over the Chalk in the South-east part of England.' In this work the fossils in the main divisions of the Chalk were for the first time indicated, and those of the Tertiary strata were shown to prove alternations of marine and freshwater conditions. The paper was illustrated by geological maps of the London and Hampshire basins, and coloured sections of Headon Hill and Alum Bay. Berger contributed an essay and geological map of the Isle of Man.

The third volume was issued in 1816. Evidently some dissatisfaction was felt at the comparative slowness in publication, judging by a letter written by L. Horner from Edinburgh, March 14, 1816, to Dr. Marcet:

> I wish, however, that the Geological Society would communicate their papers to the public with the same despatch that the Medical Society does, and I see no reason