

CHAPTER IV

GEOLOGICAL MAPS. NEW SERIES OF 'TRANSACTIONS'

WILLIAM SMITH'S AND GREENOUGH'S GEOLOGICAL MAPS—BUCKLAND AND
 SEDGWICK—MUSEUM—NEW SERIES OF 'TRANSACTIONS'—GEOLOGICAL
 SOCIETY CLUB

IT was recorded by Buckland, in 1841, that 'A large geologically coloured map and delineation of the strata of England and Wales was published in 1815 by Mr. William Smith, under the encouragement of Sir Joseph Banks and a large number of individual subscribers; and in 1819 [1820] a much more perfect physical and geological map of England was published at the voluntary cost and by the gratuitous exertions of several members of this Society (chiefly those of Mr. Greenough), more complete than any map on a similar scale and extent yet produced by the official labours of any Government in the world.'¹

There can be no doubt of the supreme importance of William Smith's original map of England and Wales; it was a work of genius, planned and executed single-handed, the product of 'the pursuit of knowledge under difficulties,' and of the application of that knowledge. Above all, it was the first 'true geological map of England and Wales.'²

In connection with the history of geological maps, it should not be forgotten that an Ayrshire man, and a foreign member of the Geological Society, William Maclure (1763–1840), constructed the first geological map of the United States, which was published by the American Philosophical Society in 1809. Griffith issued the first geological map of Ireland in 1815; a new edition of it

¹ Address, *Proc. Geol. Soc.* iii. p. 472.

See remarks by Prof. J. W. Judd, *Geol. Mag.* 1898, p. 97.