

at the ordinary meetings, with such official documents as it may be thought expedient to publish—which if preserved will furnish a connected history of the Society.

In the Report of the Council read at the annual general meeting on February 15, 1828 (printed in No. 6 of the *Proceedings*), it was announced that

The circulation of the printed PROCEEDINGS of the Society has given such general satisfaction, that the Council has had no hesitation in recommending the continuance of it; since a record is thus obtained of the progress of the Institution, which may hereafter become an object of reference, with a view to the history of the subject; whilst an opportunity is afforded of circulating with promptitude, notices of transitory interest, or that require immediate attention; and of giving publicity to various papers on geological subjects, too valuable to lose, but not of sufficient importance to occupy a place in the more permanent and costly record of the *Transactions*.

As remarked later on by Leonard Horner, 'In order to avoid an inconvenient, and even injurious, effect upon the sale of our *Transactions*, the *Proceedings* consisted of very brief abstracts of the papers, and, being without illustrations, in many instances they conveyed a very imperfect idea of the nature and value of the memoir. But the great delay in the publication of memoirs in full, robbing authors, in some instances, of the honour of priority in discovery, the uncertainty when a paper that had been read would be published, and even the doubt that was sometimes raised whether it would ever appear, very materially diminished the usefulness of the Society.'

It came to be recognised that, 'In a progressive science like geology, with so many active cultivators of it in every part of the world, rapidity of publication is of the first importance,' and that 'a majority of papers may be perfectly well given in the octavo form, now that the great improvements of late years make it possible to have distinct and accurate illustrations by woodcuts, lithographs and zincographs upon a page of that size.'¹

¹ Address to Geol. Soc. 1846.