

CHAPTER VII

THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. THE DEVONIAN SYSTEM

THE GEOLOGICAL AND ORDNANCE SURVEYS—COLONEL COLBY—COLOURING OF GEOLOGICAL MAPS—DE LA BECHE—GEOLOGICAL MAP OF DEVON—SEDGWICK, MURCHISON, AND LONSDALE—DEVONIAN SYSTEM—GODWIN—AUSTEN—PORTLOCK—SOPWITH—MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY

IN his Address to the Society in 1861 Leonard Horner remarked: 'The Geological Survey of the United Kingdom claims, however, my first attention; for I think that, without being open to the charge of arrogance, we may say that it is an offspring of this Society. The nation is mainly indebted, for the advantages it has already [derived] and will hereafter derive from that institution, to the genius, activity, and practical judgment of one of the most accomplished geologists of the time in which he lived, and for many years a leading member in this Society, Sir Henry De la Beche.'

The progress of geology in every region must be largely dependent on accurate topographical maps; and the publication of sheets on the scale of one-inch to a mile, by the Ordnance Survey, was of the greatest assistance. This Survey was commenced in 1797, and by the year 1824 the south of England and part of Wales had been completed.¹ The area was not surveyed in a wholly systematic way, inasmuch as 'in 1818 the gentlemen of Lincolnshire and Rutland proposed to the Government to proceed with the map of their district out of its regular turn—and this was acceded to, on condition that a portion of the cost should be locally defrayed. The object of

¹ 'Report of Departmental Committee, Board of Agriculture,' 1893, p. v.