

the cause of geography; but with little or no effect as regarded the North of England, and my native country, Scotland. In the twenty-nine years which have elapsed between the period when the question was first agitated at Edinburgh, considerable progress has, doubtless, been made; but it is surely a reproach to a powerful country like Britain that in thirty years we have only just seen the region between the Trent and the Tyne delineated and laid down on a real map,—*i. e.*, on the one-inch scale,—whilst even yet the maps of the northernmost English counties are unfinished. With the extension of the survey to the North of England and Scotland, not only has the six-inch scale been adopted, but much larger cadastral plans, on the 25½-inch scale, have been and are in execution: While these plans are, I grant, most valuable to individual proprietors, they are beside the purposes of the geographer—inasmuch as they exhibit no attempt whatever at the delineation of physical features. Hence I regret that their execution should have been preferred to the completion, in the first instance, of an intelligible and useful map of the British Isles, which, if made to depend on the *previous* completion of the large-scale plans, will still involve, I fear, the lapse of another very long period before the whole country will possess what geographers consider a map. The most powerful cause which has retarded the progress of good cartography has been the frequently-recurring cold fits of indifference and consequent cutting off of the supplies by which our legislature has been periodically affected, and which have necessarily occasioned a collapse and stagnation in the works of this important survey. As respects my own special department, or the “Geological Survey,” I deprecate still more strongly the delay of the construction of the one-inch map, seeing that no geologist can labor in the Highlands of Scotland, and accurately delineate their interesting rock-formations, by coloring any of the defective country-maps of that region. Let us now cast a rapid glance over the progress of discovery in distant lands, and particularly where our countrymen have signalized themselves. At former meetings of this Association, we have dwelt on the early discoveries of new lands in the interior of Australia, in which the names of Mitchell, Eyre, Sturt, Leichhardt, and others have been always mentioned with honor and respect. The latter journeys of the brothers Augustus and Frank Gregory have earned for these good surveyors the highest honors of the Royal Geographical