

The Report upon the Geology of Wisconsin, already published,* presents, in an introductory chapter, a concise history of the origin and working of the Survey, to the time of the publication of the volume, or to the close of the year 1861. The name of the writer, without his knowledge or solicitation, was incorporated in the original Act of 1857, as one of the Geologists, and by a subsequent Act of 1860, he was made "Principal of the Geological Commission," and directed to make certain contracts, etc.

The work of the Survey, in its several departments, was carried on as rapidly and as successfully as the organization, required by law, would permit. The volume already published, was communicated to Governor Randall in December, 1861, and copies were distributed to the members of the Legislature, in February following. At that time the work on the Palæontology was well advanced, and required only the means for providing illustrations, as then stated, to be ready for presentation to the Legislature, preliminary to publication.

Many of the new or little known species of fossils had already been described in one of the Annual Reports. Drawings of a considerable number of species had been made, and two plates illustrating fossils of the Trenton Limestone, had been engraved at the writer's expense, in order to show the character of the work contemplated. Large collections of soils, rocks, minerals and fossils had been made and deposited in the rooms of the University buildings. The want of suitable cases only, prevented these collections from being arranged, thus presenting an exhibition of the mineral and agricultural resources of the State, and by this means laying the foundation of a scientific and practical museum, which might have been of great utility to the students of the University, and the people of Wisconsin generally.

* Report on the GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN. Volume I. James Hall, on general Geology and Palæontology, and J. D. Whitney, on the Upper Mississippi Lead region. Printed by authority of the Legislature of Wisconsin, January, 1862.