

gist, Dr. Fitton, drew up some excellent instructions for collecting specimens, for the use of the party employed under Captain King to survey the Western coast of Australia; by the permission of the distinguished author, they are here subjoined.*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING GEOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

“ It may be proper to premise, that two of the principal objects of geological inquiry are, to determine—1st, the nature of the *materials* of which the earth is composed: and, 2dly, the relative *Order* in which these materials are disposed in relation to each other.

“ 1. Specimens of rocks ought not, in general, to be taken from loose pieces, but from large masses in their native place, or which have recently fallen from their natural situation.

“ 2. The specimens should consist of the stone unchanged by exposure to the elements, which sometimes alter the characters to a considerable depth from the surface. Petrifications, however, are often best distinguishable in masses somewhat decomposed; and are thus even rendered visible, in many cases, where no trace of any organized body can be discerned in the recent fracture.

“ 3. The specimens ought not to be very small;—about three inches square, and three quarters of an inch in thickness, is a convenient size.

* For the collection of rock specimens, and for the mode of observing the phenomena of physical geology, Sir H. De la Beche's instructive volume, “ *How to observe Geology,*” should be consulted.