

geology in this country cannot do better than peruse the successive addresses, rich as most of them are in valuable criticism, in original observation, or in historical record.¹

At this date, 1827, when the Society had been twenty years in existence, Fitton, as *president*, was supported as follows :—

Aikin, Bostock, W. D. Conybeare, and Sedgwick, *vice-presidents*; Broderip and Murchison, *secretaries*; Henry Heuland, *foreign secretary*; John Taylor, *treasurer*; and De la Beche, J. E. Bicheno, Davies Gilbert, Greenough, John F. W. Herschel, Armand Levy, Lyell, Pepys, Rev. J. H. Randolph, Charles Stokes, J. F. Vandercom, Warburton, Webster, and Thomas Young, other members of *Council*.

Murchison, who now began to take an active part in the work of the Society, had been a keen fox-hunter, but was led, to some extent by Sir Humphry Davy, and largely by Mrs. Murchison, to turn his attention to field-geology. During the years 1824–25 his interest was thus aroused. Buckland gave him his earliest lessons in the field, when ‘he accompanied the merry professor and his students, mounted on Oxford hacks, to Shotover Hill.’ Webster and Fitton likewise helped to stir his enthusiasm, while Conybeare and Phillips’s ‘Geology of England and Wales’ became his ‘scientific bible.’ A little later, in a quarry near Bath, he accidentally met ‘a tall, grave man, with a huge hammer on his shoulder.’ This was William Lonsdale, whose important paper on the Oolitic District of Bath was read in 1829, and under his guidance Murchison spent some days in the field. But ‘of all his geological friends none had won his respect and admiration so entirely as Sedgwick,’ and for several years their expeditions in this country and abroad were made together. It was during their first expedition abroad that Sedgwick, influenced by his friend’s enjoyment of the fragrant weed, himself became a smoker. Together they gave special attention to the older rocks, and Murchison eventually

¹ A brief summary of the contents of each address is given in the Appendix, pp. 286–296.