

The strongest combatant who entered the lists against the catastrophal theory was Charles Lyell,<sup>1</sup> a Scotsman by birth. Like his two older contemporaries, Alexander von Humboldt and Leopold von Buch, Lyell had the good fortune to enjoy an independent patrimony and to be able to devote himself wholly to science. While he was a student in Oxford, he attended Buckland's lectures and showed a great interest in entomology. During one of his vacations he accompanied his parents on a three months' tour through France, Switzerland, and Upper Italy. It was then that Lyell felt his enthusiasm aroused for geological studies. Although he completed his law course in the following years, he spent his leisure hours on geology. In 1823 he was in Paris, where he made the acquaintance of Cuvier, Humboldt, and Prévost, and afterwards made excursions with Constant Prévost in the West of England and in Cornwall. In the same year he visited Scotland in the company of Buckland.

The manuscript of his *Principles of Geology* was almost complete in 1827, but before printing it Lyell felt the necessity of being able to bear personal testimony upon many points. Now followed a period in which he travelled to one place and to another, collecting a large number of new data, and enjoying the intercourse of the greatest geologists of his day. In the companionship of Murchison and his wife, Lyell in 1828 visited Auvergne, the Velay and Vivarais, the Riviera, the neighbourhood of Turin, Verona, and Padua. He then continued his journey alone to Parma, Bologna, Florence, Siena, Rome, Naples and Sicily, and returned home by Paris. His chief interest during these journeys was concentrated upon volcanoes and the young Tertiary formations.

The first volume of the *Principles* appeared in 1830, the second in 1832, and the third in 1833. Meanwhile Lyell continued to enrich his knowledge by frequent journeys to

<sup>1</sup> Charles Lyell (afterwards Sir Charles Lyell, Baronet) was born at Kinnordy, in Forfarshire, Scotland, on the 14th November 1797, and was the son of a rich proprietor and the eldest of ten brothers and sisters. He passed his early childhood near Southampton, where his father had rented a country-house, attended school at Ringwood and Salisbury, studied in Oxford, then settled in London, and spent the rest of his life either in London or in travelling. He died in 1875, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. (T. G. Bonney, *Charles Lyell and Modern Geology*, London, 1895, and *Life, Letters, and Journals of Sir Charles Lyell, Bart.*, edited by his sister-in-law, Mrs. Lyell, 2 vols., London, 1881.)