

which he learnt much about the general course of the Chalk and other strata, and was enabled 'to trace the line of sands underlying the chalk escarpment, and the ranges of calcareous freestone from Bath by the Cotteswolds, through the Midland counties, &c.' Not the least important aid at this time was 'an annual income of 500*l.*,' which a worthy grandmother bequeathed to him.

Christopher Packe's 'Chorographical Chart of East Kent' (1743), a work 'scarcely surpassed by the Ordnance maps of the present day,' aided Conybeare's researches in that county. He now found a deeper interest in tracing the relations between the strata and the scenery, while 'the distinct organic remains of the several ranges became so familiar to me that I was prepared at once to seize the general fact of the successive distribution of these ancient genera when first laid down as an admitted fact in the progress of geology, which was the case about this time, 1809.'¹

Interest in geological inquiries was likewise stirred at Oxford. The first University lectures on Mineralogy (not then distinguished from Geology) were by Sir Christopher Pegge, F.R.S., then Regius Professor of Physic, who was elected an honorary member of the Geological Society in 1807. Later on, Dr. John Kidd lectured on Mineralogy and Geology, and gathered round him many students who became keen in the pursuit of geology—among them Buckland, and the two brothers Conybeare.² They formed a club of Oxford geologists, and were annually visited at Whitsuntide by Greenough, Fitton, and others, who came to study under their guidance the rocks of the neighbourhood. W. D. Conybeare was regarded as the head of this

¹ 'Letters and Exercises of the Elizabethan Schoolmaster, John Conybeare, with fragment of Autobiography, by W. D. Conybeare,' edited by F. C. Conybeare, 1905, pp. 119-21, 136. This autobiography was probably written by W. D. Conybeare (1787-1857) 'shortly before his death.'

² John Josias Conybeare, the elder brother (1779-1824), Professor of Anglo-Saxon and afterwards of Poetry at Oxford, and Vicar of Batheaston, took much interest in geology and wrote several valuable papers on the subject. See also W. J. Sollas, 'Influence of Oxford on the History of Geology,' in 'Age of the Earth,' 1905, p. 219.