

why it should not. There is some unaccountable negligence in this respect, and it greatly diminishes its usefulness. Although Macculloch may not be so pleasant at the Council Board as Blake, I hope you will not fail to attend as often as you can. You are one of those valuable guardians of liberty, that must not be allowed to slumber, and for God's sake do not allow the Council of the Geological Society to degenerate. If your present Council do their duty there is nothing to fear. Aikin was so kind as to send me a list of the new elected officers; when I read it to Playfair he said they ought to do a great deal, for it was a Council fit to govern the world.<sup>1</sup>

There were, however, other outlets for those who desired a speedier publication of their observations. In 1813, Thomas Thomson, M.D., F.R.S., commenced the publication of the *Annals of Philosophy, or Magazine of Chemistry, Mineralogy, Mechanics and the Arts*;<sup>2</sup> and to this journal, as well as to the *Philosophical Magazine*, many important contributions were made by leading members of the Geological Society.<sup>3</sup>

In 1814 the example set by the Society was, for the first time, followed in the provinces by the institution at Penzance, on February 11, of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall. The object of its founders was

'The Discovery of New Facts to enrich Science, and the Application of Science to improve Art.' The first volume of *Transactions* was published in 1818, and it was then stated in the preface that 'In the construction of a geological map of Cornwall, the Society has made considerable progress.'

One of the early members of the Geological Society of London, Davies Giddy [afterwards Gilbert] (1767-1839), was chosen president. At the time he was M.P. for Bodmin. He changed his name to Gilbert in 1817, and later on became president of the Royal Society. He was supported in the new Cornish Society by Henry S. Boase (treasurer), Sir John St. Aubyn, William Bolitho, and Joseph Carne.

<sup>1</sup> 'Memoir of L. Horner,' vol. i. p. 89.

<sup>2</sup> 1813-20; continued in a second series by Richard Phillips, 1821-26.

<sup>3</sup> In Edinburgh the Wernerian Natural History Society, founded by Robert Jameson in 1808, published valuable geological papers (1811-39).