

and to want a great deal of the energy it had in former days.'¹

The practice of discussing the papers read before the Society commenced a little later, during the presidency of Dr. Babington in 1822-23; to this further reference is made (p. 76).

If the professorial element had invaded the Society, it had for many years in Buckland and Sedgwick vigorous exponents of the science: men who stirred enthusiasm by a knowledge that was tinged with humour and imparted in eloquent terms. The anniversary dinners were enlivened by their presence.

In 1822, as mentioned by Lyell in a letter to Mantell, 'The professors of Cambridge and Oxford were present at our dinner, and Buckland was called upon to explain the vast quantities of bones which he found in the summer, in a cave at Kirkdale in Yorkshire, of which he had a large bagful with him.'²

Buckland may be said to have initiated in this country the study of ossiferous caverns and fissures. In these early days the distinction between 'diluvial' and stratified deposits was recognised, but the secret of the drifts had yet to be disclosed. In his '*Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*,' published in 1823, he was hampered, as many others were, by the tradition of a Universal Deluge; and this led to the well-known couplet, written by one of his friends:—

All was darkness once about the Flood,
Till Buckland rose and made it clear as mud.

Sedgwick, in 1822, commenced his systematic investigations of the older rocks of the Lake District, pursuing his researches during three successive summers. On his second expedition he met the famous geological guide, Jonathan Otley (1766-1856); and he ever cordially acknowledged the good work done by that humble but sagacious pioneer. Otley had been the first to mark out the main

¹ 'Memoir of L. Horner,' vol. i. p. 192.

² 'Life, Letters and Journals,' vol. i. 1881, p. 115.