

never carried out.¹ At the time he was Rector of Sully, in Glamorganshire ; in 1836 he became Vicar of Axminster, and in 1845 Dean of Llandaff ; and his clerical duties—to say nothing of a growing family—gradually absorbed more and more of his time. Sedgwick also became engrossed with field-work among the older rocks, and with many and varied occupations in connection with the University of Cambridge, and as Prebendary of Norwich.

The works of George Poulett Scrope (1797–1876), his ‘Considerations on Volcanos’ (1825), and his ‘Memoir on the Geology of Central France’ (1827), aided greatly in establishing the true principles of geology, which had been so admirably sketched by Hutton and Playfair.

In Palæontology, the ‘Organic Remains’ (1804–11) of Parkinson for some years was the chief work of authority ; William Smith’s ‘Strata Identified by Organised Fossils,’ begun in 1815, was never completed ; but the ‘Mineral Conchology of Great Britain,’ commenced by James Sowerby (1757–1822) in 1812, at once became the standard work, and with the assistance of his son, James de Carle Sowerby (1787–1871), it remained so, until 1845, after which it was gradually replaced by the publications of the Palæontographical Society.

In the days of the Sowerbys, fossils were not collected with that regard to exact locality and geological position which is at present essential. Their figures, however, were for the most part admirably drawn and reproduced, and although a certain number of the specimens had been obtained from boulder clay or drift gravel, and remain, as regards horizon, a source of doubt, yet those were happy days for the geologist and the local collector, as they could readily identify most of their fossils. James de Carle Sowerby was for some years the chief palæontologist to the Geological Society, and by him the fossil shells

¹ ‘Life and Letters of Sedgwick,’ vol. i. p. 324. In 1844 A. C. Ramsay and E. Forbes planned to bring out a new edition of the book, with the co-operation of Conybeare, but the project was abandoned. See ‘Memoir of Sir A. C. Ramsay,’ by Sir A. Geikie, 1895, p. 58.