

Geological Society, at the Crown and Anchor—a splendid meeting. Near the president [Murchison] sat Lords Milton, Morpeth, Cavendish, Sir John Malcolm, Sir J. Herschel, Sir J. Johnstone, M.P., Sir R. Vyvyan, Sir C. Lemon, and other M.P.'s. Literature represented by Hallam, Lockhart, Sotheby, &c. Geologicals—Buckland, Conybeare, Fitton, Greenough, Sedgwick. Then from Cambridge, Whewell, and many other good men. All the best geological residents in town.'¹

Murchison, when president, following the example of Greenough and Fitton, 'made it the ground for gathering at his house, in a more public and official form than one could do in a private capacity, assemblies in which scientific men mingled freely with representatives from that non-scientific society of rank and fashion to which he had always been so strongly attached. To these gatherings Mrs. [afterwards Lady] Murchison lent her cordial help, giving them a charm which added much to their popularity.'² They were continued for many years. The Marquis of Northampton likewise held evening receptions to which the leading geologists were invited.

In 1833 the number of Fellows exceeded 600, and in the following year some additional apartments at Somerset House were made over to the Society. The president (Greenough) in his Address on February 20, 1835, remarked :—

'Gentlemen,—I rejoice to see you assemble in these long-desired apartments. . . . You are well aware that all the accommodation which you now enjoy has not been derived, however, solely from the beneficence of the Government, set in motion by the Royal Society. On our first taking possession of this house the repairs and alterations occasioned on our part an immediate outlay of 1,500*l.*, and 1,000*l.* more have now been expended in improving and furnishing the new apartments. . . . 500*l.* of that amount have been provided by a voluntary subscription. The alterations planned by Mr. Decimus Burton [the architect] have been

¹ Lyell, 'Life, Letters, and Journals,' vol. i. 1881, pp. 368, 372.

² Geikie, 'Life of Sir Roderick I. Murchison,' vol. i. 1875, p. 200.