

the co-operation of an experienced and able geologist, who might organise and direct the operations ; and I congratulate the Society that our Foreign Secretary, Mr. De la Beche, has been chosen to discharge an office for which he is so eminently qualified.'¹

We have a picture of De la Beche in the 'Memories of Old Friends,'² by Caroline Fox, daughter of Robert Were Fox, of Penjerrick. Thus she recorded in 1836:—

Falmouth, April 7.—Sir Charles Lemon, John Enys, and Henry de la Beche came to luncheon. The last-named is a very entertaining person, his manners rather French, his conversation spirited and full of illustrative anecdote. He looks about forty—a handsome but care-worn face, brown eyes and hair, and gold spectacles. He exhibited and explained the geological maps of Devon and Cornwall, which he is now perfecting for the Ordnance. Accordingly he is constantly shifting his residence that he may survey accurately in these parts.

At the close of 1835, De la Beche was in doubt as to how far the divisions of the Grauwacke in Western Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall might coincide with Sedgwick's Cambrian ; but he was of opinion that the rocks were older than the Silurian of Murchison.³

In 1836 Sedgwick and Murchison together commenced their detailed researches on Devonshire, whereby they rescued the Culm-measures from the chaos of Grauwacke ; and eventually (in 1839) showed, with inspiration from Lonsdale, that the older rocks of the county formed a great group between Carboniferous and Silurian, and the Devonian system was founded.

Some controversy naturally arose with reference to the age of the Devonshire Culm-strata ; but Lyell mentioned in 1837 that De la Beche had (in a letter) expressed 'his intention, before concluding his report on the Ordnance Map of Devon, to re-examine Devonshire. He is far, he says, from pretending that his first views were perfect, and

¹ *Proc. Geol. Soc.* ii. p. 358.

² Edit. 2, vol. i. 1882, p. 5.

³ *Proc. Geol. Soc.* ii. p. 225.