

1840 published his 'Book of the Great Sea-Dragons, Ichthyosauri and Plesiosauri.' The animals, like the geologists, seemed generally to have been engaged in combat.

Buckland was always an enthusiastic collector, and it is recorded that on one occasion, obtaining a large form of *Ammonites Bucklandi* without the inner whorls, he thrust his head through the stony ring and rode home, dubbed by his friends the 'Ammon Knight.'<sup>1</sup> He habitually carried a large blue bag for his fossils, and has told that the greatest honour which the bag ever had was when Lord Grenville insisted on carrying it; and the greatest disgrace it ever had was when he called on Sir Humphry Davy three or four times one day, and always found him out. At last Sir Humphry asked his servant, 'Has Dr. Buckland not called to-day?' 'No, sir, there has been nobody here to-day but a man with a bag, who has been here three or four times, and I always told him you were out' (see Frontispiece).

Buckland's home at Oxford, as described by Sopwith in 1839, was 'truly characteristic as the residence of a geologist and scholar. The exterior is a plain, low, rustic, time-worn Gothic wall, being part of the large quadrangle of Christ Church College. A low and very plain-looking door opens, and you behold a very wide and short staircase, almost covered with fragments of rock, specimens of fossil remains, an immense tortoise, and a stuffed wolf. In the breakfast-room are a series of piles of books, boxes, papers; in short, such a combination of book-stands, chairs, sideboards, boxes, all blended together in one mass of confusion, which, I was informed, had not been invaded by the dust-cloth for the last five years.'<sup>2</sup>

From another writer, in October 1839, we learn that:—

'Mrs. Buckland is a most amusing, animated woman, full of strong sense and keen perception. She spoke of the style in which they go on at home, the dust and

<sup>1</sup> Sowerby, 'Mineral Conchology,' ii. p. 69.

<sup>2</sup> 'Life and Correspondence of William Buckland,' by Mrs. Gordon, 1894 p. 85; and 'Thomas Sopwith,' by B. W. Richardson, M.D., 1891, p. 164.