

of his audience, and invariably left them imbued with a love for the science he had taught them.¹

Agassiz (1807-73), who in 1836 had been awarded the Wollaston Medal for his researches on fossil fishes, had encouraged two of our Fellows, Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton (1806-81) and Lord Cole, afterwards third Earl of Enniskillen (1807-86), to undertake the collection and study of these organic remains. In a communication read before the Society in 1833, Egerton had drawn attention to the Carboniferous fossils collected by Lord Cole and himself in County Fermanagh. Two years later he announced the discovery of Ichthyolites in the North Staffordshire Coal-field. He devoted himself to the scientific study of fossil fishes; Lord Cole mainly to the collection of specimens. Until the close of their lives these enthusiastic workers continued their labours, and for many years both took an active part in the management of the Society.

In February 1835 the Wollaston Medal was awarded to Dr. Mantell, and the presentation was made at the anniversary dinner, Lyell speaking on behalf of Mantell, who was unable to be present. Lyell mentioned that²—

‘The dinner went off famously, more than a hundred present. . . . Lord Lansdowne [proposed the toast of] Oxford and Buckland; Fitton gave Cambridge, answered by Sedgwick; Sedgwick, the Royal Society, answered by Lubbock; Buckland, the Linnæan; I, the Astronomical, answered by Baily; Greenough, the Geographical, answered by Murchison.’ After other toasts, ‘we adjourned late to hear Greenough’s address.’

This method of procedure doubtless had its drawbacks: at any rate in later years the dinner followed the address. On one occasion, 1859, the Council arranged that the annual dinner take place on the day following the anniversary, but this could not have proved satisfactory, least of all to Fellows living away from London.

¹ Wm. Hopkins, Address to Geol. Soc. 1853.

² ‘Life, Letters, and Journals,’ vol. i. 1881, p. 447.