

a series of investigations, but was certainly well justified by subsequent researches.

Owen, who was elected a Fellow in 1837, and was introduced at the meeting on June 14, has told that

‘After a very interesting evening with Buckland, Whewell, Sedgwick, Murchison, De la Beche, Stokes, &c., they all adjourned to Lord Cole’s to supper. After supper, they proceeded to play “high jinks,” as immortalised by Sir Walter Scott in “Rob Roy.” Mr. Stokes took the chair as king, and was excellent as the arbitrary monarch. . . . All kind of scientific discourse was prohibited on pain of forfeit.’¹

Thus, from time to time, were the heavier proceedings of science enlivened; and we learn from Lyell that in 1838,

‘After the anniversary evening, Lord Cole pressed me so hard to go and eat *pterodactyl* (alias woodcock) pie at his rooms, that I went, with Whewell, Buckland, Owen, Clift, Egerton, Broderip, Hamilton, Major Clerk, Lord Adair; and there we were till two o’clock, fines inflicted of bumpers of cognac on all who talked any “ology.” Cigar smoke so strong as half to turn one’s stomach. I lost the enjoyment of Murchison’s dinner next day, and for five days only did half a day’s work, or less.’²

Sir Charles Bunbury gave the following account of a meeting of the Geological Society held on March 8, 1837, when the first paper was by the Rev. W. B. Clarke ‘On the Geological Structure and Phenomena of Suffolk, and its Physical Relations with Norfolk and Essex;’ and the second paper was by the Rev. David Williams ‘On the raised beaches of Saunton Downend and Baggy Point’ :—

‘The papers that were read were very dull, and it was not till after they were finished that there was some fun in the shape of an animated debate between Sedgwick and Greenough; the former was in his glory, and very entertaining on the subject of raised beaches, which one would hardly have thought a very favourable topic for the exercise

¹ ‘Life of Richard Owen,’ vol. i. 1894, p. 113.

² ‘Life, Letters, and Journals of Sir Charles Lyell, Bart.,’ vol. ii. p. 39.