

Lyell in a later paper, regarded this conjecture as 'by no means improbable,' and it is interesting to find it supported by modern Glacialists, although the view of an 'East British Ice-sheet' over the area of the North Sea is not held without strenuous opposition.¹

James Mitchell, LL.D. (1785-1844) had made extensive and methodical observations on the Tertiary and superficial strata of the London area; and he helped and influenced Prestwich in his later and more elaborate researches. In 1889 Prestwich deposited in the Library five MS. folio volumes of 'Geological Researches round London,' containing records of wells, and observations by Mitchell on the geology and botany of the neighbourhood of the metropolis.² Mitchell has recorded that, at a meeting of the Geological Society on April 9, 1834, he denied the existence of the London Basin. He added that 'The attempt at a defence of the term Basin was exceedingly feeble. In fact it was all but abandoned.' He was evidently somewhat of a Geological Radical, to judge by the following extract from a letter to a friend:

'I assure you it is not sufficient to be a Fellow; if you be not also high in office you do not get justice. There is a certain set of elder brethren, members of the Council and ex-members, who monopolise as much as they can, both in the *Transactions* and in the speaking at the Society; and a new man has to fight his way through them.'³

One of the more interesting and important of the papers by Lyell was that on 'The Boulder Formation, or Drift, and Associated Freshwater Deposits Composing the Mud Cliffs of Eastern Norfolk.' It was read before the Geological Society on January 22, 1840, but only an

¹ See remarks, on opposite sides of the question, by G. W. Lamplugh, and T. G. Bonney, *Geol. Mag.* 1901, pp. 142, 187, &c.

² *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* xlv. p. 12 (Proc.) Many of Dr. Mitchell's notes were published by W. Whitaker in his 'Geology of London,' 2 vols. *Mem. Geol. Survey*, 1889.

³ Letters dated April 30 and May 2, 1834; in possession of Dr. Henry Woodward.