

tended to impugn the good faith of Murchison, and therefore would not be admitted at the present day into the *Quarterly Journal*. These passages related to the views of Murchison and himself as they were gradually evolved during their studies of the Lower Palæozoic rocks, since 1831, a period of twenty years during which the vagaries of memory might well lead to misunderstanding.

The Council considered the paper with care and deliberation, and it was not until their meeting on April 7, 1852, that their decision was given. There were present, William Hopkins (President), J. Carrick Moore, Col. Portlock, Dr. Bigsby, Mr. Horner, Dr. Hooker, Professor Ansted, Mr. S. V. Wood, Mr. S. P. Pratt, Mr. Bunbury, and Mr. Greenough.

Professor Sedgwick's paper on the Classification of the Palæozoic rocks was balloted for and ordered to be printed in the abstracted form recommended by the Referee.

Owing to some mistake the paper was printed in full, much to the consternation of the Council. At their next meeting on May 19, 1852,

The Council observed with regret that the paper of Professor Sedgwick in No. 30 of the *Journal*, May 1, 1852, had been published inadvertently with certain passages which they had required to be omitted; it was therefore resolved that the number be recalled, and pages 152 to the end cancelled.

This resolution was extraordinary. Many copies of the *Journal* had already been distributed, and it was impossible to cancel the 'Historical Retrospect' which Sedgwick had written.¹ The author indeed regarded the resolution of the Council as an insult: it was certainly useless as well as ill-judged, and it led to much correspondence and discussion; but it is evident that no disrespect was contemplated by the Council on this or on any other occasion in the history of the Society.

¹ See also 'Life of Murchison,' by A. Geikie, vol. ii. 1875, p. 141.