

limestone was probably newer than Silurian, perhaps Devonian, or possibly Lower Carboniferous.<sup>1</sup>

It was not until December 1, 1858, in a paper read before the Society by Murchison, that the Durness fossils were described and figured by Salter, who identified several species of *Orthoceras*, the heteropod *Maclurea*, and other forms of Lower Silurian type and American facies.

Particulars of Peach's original discovery, as above quoted, were given in a paper read before the Society on December 15 by John Miller, of Thurso, who recognised the distinction between the purple sandstones of Cape Wrath, then regarded as Cambrian, and the Old Red Sandstone in the neighbourhood of Tongue. John Miller was in form perhaps the stoutest Fellow ever elected into the Society; his medial circumference was so great that he could only sit on the end seat of any one of the benches in the meeting-room, and when on departing he attempted to occupy a four-wheeled cab, and finally obtained entry with a rush, it became an unsolved problem how he ever made exit again. Familiarly known as 'Huge Miller,' he was a good-natured, cheery geologist.

As in the case of the Cambro-Silurian question, there arose a great Highland controversy, in which blows were exchanged at times with equal disregard of personal sensibilities.

Sir Archibald Geikie has given some interesting reminiscences of the Glasgow meeting of the British Association in 1855, when the geologists mustered strongly, and Murchison, who was again president of Section C, read a paper on the relations of the crystalline rocks of the North Highlands. Then Sedgwick 'came up once more among his Northern brethren of the hammer,' and 'when, after Murchison's communication on the Sutherlandshire story, he rose to speak, and began by deliberately taking off a thick heavy great-coat in which he had been sitting, he noticed that he had raised a smile in the audience, whereupon he instantly and in his happiest way

<sup>1</sup> 'Life of Murchison,' by Sir A. Geikie, ii. p. 195.