

P R E F A C E

A PROPOSAL was brought before the Council of the Geological Society in November 1904, that a history of the Society be drawn up somewhat after the plan of the 'Record of the Royal Society,' and that it be issued in readiness for the Centenary celebration in 1907.

The project having been approved, a committee comprising the President, Secretaries, and Treasurer, together with Mr. R. S. Herries, and the writer, was appointed to deal with the matter. Mr. H. W. Monckton undertook to contribute notes on some of the manuscript works deposited in the Library, and descriptions of the Medals; Mr. Herries expressed his willingness to verify a copy of the Charter, and to prepare a list of the Benefactors; Professor Garwood promised to deal with the portraits and other illustrations; while the historical portion of the work was undertaken by the writer. The present volume is the result.

The aim of the work has been to set forth the main incidents in the history of the Geological Society, as far as possible in the words of those to whom we are indebted for records, whether in the official Minute Books, in the publications of the Society, or in the several independent biographies of prominent members.

Hitherto no detailed narrative has been published of the circumstances attending the origin of the Society and its founders. Interest has centred in the Great Masters of the Science, notably in Buckland, Conybeare, Sedgwick,