

Murchison, and Lyell, who succeeded the actual founders. From the biographies of these distinguished men, and from those of Edward Forbes, Jukes, Ramsay, Falconer, Owen, Huxley, and Prestwich, who belonged to the second generation of geological leaders, much material has been gathered relating to the history of the Geological Society and its individual members.

In the following pages reference has been made to some of the noteworthy achievements of the members, and especially to subjects which have stirred up great debates, but it is obvious that no attempt to present a summary of the contributions to geological progress made during the course of a hundred years would have been possible. The record of the work done by the Society at home and abroad is printed in its *Transactions*, *Proceedings*, and *Quarterly Journal*. Moreover, a history of the Society, though it be the oldest body devoted especially to geology, can have no claim to be a history of the science, the origin of which is a theme of European import, while its growth, fostered betimes in trans-Atlantic regions, soon became world-wide.

Endeavour has been made not merely to trace the birth, the development, and influence of the Geological Society, but to indicate something of the manner of men who laid its foundations, and during the earlier years materially aided its progress. If, however, a study of the work of pioneers tend, even laudably, to develop a kind of hero-worship, this must never be allowed to obscure the important work of the followers.

The growth and success of the Society have been due to the united labour and support of members differing much in education and means, and belonging to all grades of social position; to studious collectors of facts and fossils, as well as to men of genius and conspicuous ability. While it is interesting to find humble observers