

was under the ocean." But with all his limitations we may yet rank him as the great pioneer of the modern science of Seismology.<sup>1</sup>

It was not until about the middle of last century that scientific methods and instrumental research began to be seriously applied to the study of earthquake phenomena, and the modern science of Seismology came into being. Alexis Perry of Dijon had rendered important service by laboriously collecting statistics of earthquakes from all countries and of all ages back to the early centuries of our era. But it is more especially to the labours of Robert Mallet (1810-1881) that we owe the initial impetus which has led to such valuable results in recent years. In 1846 he published a paper "On the Dynamics of Earthquakes,"<sup>2</sup> which, as he himself says of it, was "the first attempt to bring the phenomena of the earthquake within the range of exact science, by reducing to system the enormous mass of disconnected and often discordant and ill-observed facts which the multiplied

<sup>1</sup> Michell was specially distinguished as an astronomer. After serving various offices at the University of Cambridge, where he had graduated as fourth wrangler, he became rector first of St. Botolph's, Cambridge, and for the last twenty-six years of his life, of Thornhill in Yorkshire. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and author of a number of remarkable papers on astronomical subjects. His essay on earthquakes may have led to his being appointed in 1762 to the Woodwardian Professorship of Geology at Cambridge, but it appears to be his only contribution to geological science. Not only does it treat of the subject of its title, but it gives an excellent account of the tectonic arrangement of the stratified formations, to which further reference will be made in a later chapter.

<sup>2</sup> *Trans. Roy. Irish Acad.* vol. xxi. (1846), p. 51.