

probably not greater than that of the average college Fellow of his day. But his appointment as Professor awakened his dormant scientific proclivities, and he at once threw himself with all his energy and enthusiasm into the duties of his new vocation. Gifted with mental power of no common order, which had been sedulously trained in a wide range of studies, possessing a keen eye for the geological structure of a region, together with abundant bodily prowess to sustain him in the most arduous exertions in the field, eloquent, witty, vivacious, he took at once the place of prominence in the University which he retained to the last, and he came with rapid strides to the front of all who in that day cultivated the infant science of geology in England.

What little geology Sedgwick knew, when he became a professor of the science, seems to have been of a decidedly Wernerian kind. He began his geological writings with an account of the primitive ridge and its associated rocks in Devon and Cornwall. His earliest paper might have been appropriately printed in the first volume of the *Memoirs of the Wernerian Society*. In later years, referring to his Neptunist beginnings, he confessed that "for a long while I was troubled with water on the brain, but light and heat have completely dissipated it," and he spoke of "the Wernerian nonsense I learnt in my youth."¹ It was by his own diligent work in the field that he came to a true perception of geological principles. His excursions carried him all over England, and enabled him to

¹ *Life and Letters of Adam Sedgwick*, by J. W. Clark and T. M'K. Hughes, vol. i. p. 284.