

Geological Society. He joined in 1808, and two years later became one of the honorary secretaries. He had studied chemistry and mineralogy at Edinburgh—subjects which afterwards occupied much of the leisure of a busy life. As early as 1810, when secretary, he ‘used to spend many evenings arranging the collections, frequently accompanied by his young wife;’ and during his last year—more than fifty years later—Horner spent many hours on many days in the Museum of the Society at Somerset House, arranging the foreign collection of rocks. He was especially interested in the German rocks—having resided for two years at Bonn, during the years 1831–33—when he had given much attention to petrology. He was elected F.R.S. in 1813. His eldest daughter was married to Mr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Lyell.¹ In his address to the Society, in 1846, he remarked: ‘When we consider the vast extent of the domain of geology—as it is now studied—that its fundamental principles are derived from many, indeed from almost all, departments of natural history and physical science, it is not possible for anyone, although he united the most comprehensive mind and varied attainments with indefatigable industry, to take even a rapid survey of the progress of geology in a single year, using the term in its most enlarged sense.’ As remarked by Sir A. Geikie, he was ‘ever ready to receive and sympathise with new developments of truth;’ and when he read his last address before the Society (1861) ‘he pleaded boldly for the high antiquity of the human race, in opposition to popular prejudice on this subject, and claimed for the speculations of Mr. Darwin the thoughtful consideration of all lovers of truth.’²

Sir Abraham Hume, Bart. (1749–1838), elected in 1808, was regarded as one of the founders of the Society.³ He ‘was at all times one of its most strenuous friends and most liberal supporters, and especially in its earliest periods, when such aid was of most value.’ He was a *virtuoso*, with a famous collection of minerals and precious stones, especially rich in diamonds; and he was one of those who met at Dr. Babington’s house, but not in the early hours of the

¹ ‘Memoir of Leonard Horner,’ edited by his daughter, Katherine M. Lyell. 2 vols. 1890 (privately printed).

² Obit. notice of Horner, *Proc. Roy. Soc.* xiv. 1865, p. v.

³ See Whewell’s Address, *Proc. Geol. Soc.*, iii. p. 65.