

CHAPTER III

THE OLD MASTERS. THE PUBLICATION OF
'TRANSACTIONS'

THE OLD MASTERS—W. D. CONYBEARE AND THE OXFORD GEOLOGISTS—
TRANSACTIONS OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY—SALE OF SPECIMENS—
THOMAS WEBSTER—APARTMENTS IN BEDFORD STREET, COVENT GARDEN
—COUNCIL, 1817—THE TEACHING OF GEOLOGY—SCIENCE AS A PRO-
FESSION

WE now come to the period, prior to incorporation, when the Society commenced to publish its *Transactions*, and when the more prominent members were most of them geologists actively engaged in the pursuit of the science. Thus in addition to Leonard Horner, Greenough, Thomas Webster, Macculloch, and William Phillips, there now entered upon the scenes Fitton, Wollaston, W. D. Conybeare, and Buckland, followed by Sedgwick, De la Beche, Lyell, Murchison, Scrope, and Lonsdale.

It may be interesting to note that Fitton was, for the first time, introduced as a visitor on December 21, 1810; W. D. Conybeare, on April 19, 1811; Buckland, on May 3, 1811; Von Buch, on March 3, 1815; Sedgwick on April 19, 1816; De la Beche, on May 2, 1817; Dr. Bigsby, on December 6, 1822; Lieut. Portlock, on March 21, 1823; Scrope, on April 23, 1823; Brochant de Villiers and Elie de Beaumont on June 6, 1823; Dufrénoy on June 20, 1823.

Lyell (then of Exeter College, Oxford), who was elected a member in 1819, and Murchison, who was elected in 1824, do not appear to have been previously introduced as visitors.

This period of fifteen years (1810-25) was indeed eventful: there were added to the roll of the Geological