

CHAPTER V

THE CHARTER. SOMERSET HOUSE. THE
' PROCEEDINGS '

THE CHARTER—THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY
—THE NEW PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL, 1826—APARTMENTS IN SOMER-
SET HOUSE—ANNIVERSARY ADDRESSES—DISCUSSIONS—COUNCIL, 1827
—MURCHISON AND FITTON—THE ' PROCEEDINGS '

MORE momentous proceedings were at this time engaging the attention of the Council. Early in 1824 they took into consideration the question of obtaining a Charter ; and on April 23 the president, secretaries, and treasurer, together with H. T. Colebrooke, H. Warburton, Dr. Fitton, Daniel Moore, and Dr. Babington, were appointed a Special Committee for the purpose of preparing the draft of a petition to the Crown for a Charter of Incorporation. At a subsequent meeting, Mr. J. F. Vandercom was added to the Committee. A draft was accordingly drawn up, and examined by Mr. Butler, a conveyancer.

While this undertaking was in progress, Mr. Warburton reported to the Council, on May 21, that he had been anticipated at the Council of the Royal Society in notifying the intention of the Geological Society to apply for a Charter, the president of the Royal Society [Sir Humphry Davy] having of his own accord mentioned the subject, and expressed his opinion of the propriety of such an application.

It was then estimated that the expenses attending a Charter would amount to about 300*l.* ; while the Society had at its disposal the sum of 643*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* in cash in the hands of their banker, and stock to the amount of 378*l.* 10*s.*

On this same date the matter was brought before a special general meeting of the Geological Society,