

us to hope that a spirit like that of Wollaston should often be embodied on the earth, I would appeal to those intelligent men who form the strength and ornament of the Society, whether there was any place for doubt or hesitation? whether we were not compelled, by every motive which the judgment can approve, and the heart can sanction, to perform this act of filial duty, before we thought of the claims of any other man, and to place our first honour on the brow of the Father of English Geology.

If in the pride of our present strength we were disposed to forget our origin, our very speech would bewray us; for we use the language which he taught us in the infancy of our science. If we, by our united efforts, are chiselling the ornaments, and slowly raising up the pinnacles of one of the temples of Nature, it was he that gave the plan, and laid the foundations, and erected a portion of the solid walls, by the unassisted labour of his hands. . . .

I think it a high privilege to fill this Chair, on an occasion when we are met not coldly to deliberate on the balance of conflicting claims, in which, after all, we might go wrong, and give the prize to one man by injustice to another; but to perform a sacred duty where there is no room for doubt or error, and to record an act of public gratitude, in which the judgment and the feelings are united.¹

One who knew Sedgwick has thus spoken of his remarkable personality: 'His fine bronzed face, with its mingled expression of beaming kindness and irresistible wit, his piercing eye, and eager address, gave one the impression of great energy of heart and mind.'²

In 1830 the number of Fellows of the Geological Society exceeded 500, and at the annual meeting on February 18, 1831, it was reported that the Society then had a clear property amounting in value to 1,200*l.* without taking into account the books, cabinets, or collections.

On June 18, 1830, the Council passed a resolution changing the dates of the ordinary evening meetings from the first and third Fridays in each month, from November

¹ *Proc. Geol. Soc.* i. pp. 270-279.

² 'Adam Sedgwick,' by S. R. Pattison, *New Biogr. Series*, No. 88, *Religious Tract Society*.