

its investigations ; it was towards this, and especially in the vast subject of fossil conchology, that he rendered most valuable services to this Society.

The president, Murchison, in the course of his address in 1843, remarked :—

Fourteen years, gentlemen, have elapsed since his appointment was made, during which time your collections and your volumes attest the arduous and successful labours of your curator and librarian. . . . Our *Transactions*, *Proceedings*, and collections of the last fourteen years are the real monuments of Mr. Lonsdale's labours. . . . From the moment of his appointment to the day of his retirement Mr. Lonsdale infused a truly generous and highly philosophic spirit into every act and every proceeding with which he was connected.¹

On the retirement of Lonsdale in 1842, Edward Charlesworth, among others, had applied for the vacant post, but the Council decided that he was disqualified from holding office in the Society's establishment. This stirred up some of Charlesworth's East Anglian friends, and a requisition for a special meeting to consider the subject was sent in, signed by Robert Wilson, J. W. Robberds, William Stark, Robert Fitch, and J. W. Wigham.

What took place at the meeting is not recorded, but it was known that 'An angry dispute had arisen in the Society as to the claims of the new candidates, a dispute so serious, indeed, that some of the foremost leaders had intimated their intention of quitting the Society if a certain one of the candidates was elected.'² In these circumstances Edward Forbes (1815–54) was invited to apply for the curatorship ; and supported by Fitton, Murchison, Lyell, and others, he agreed to become a candidate, was duly elected, and held office for two years. In his brief career he became one of the most distinguished and philosophical

¹ *Proc. Geol. Soc.* iv. pp. 67, 68. Lonsdale received the Wollaston Medal in 1846. During his later years he lived in comparative seclusion, and died at Bristol in 1871 at the age of 77.

² 'Memoir of Edward Forbes,' by G. Wilson and A. Geikie, 1861, p. 324.