

right front bench, supported by two of his equerries. In due course he was called upon by the president, who addressed him, as customary: 'In the name and by the authority of the Geological Society of London, I hereby admit you a Fellow thereof;' and, after shaking hands, the Prince replied: 'Mr. President, I am very proud of the honour, just conferred upon me, of being elected a Knight of the Hammer.' Then, after the usual formal business, the paper of the evening was read. It was by Murchison, 'On the Distribution of the Superficial Detritus of the Alps, as compared with that of Northern Europe.'¹

The author argued that a study of the physical phenomena of the Alps and Jura compel the geologist to restrict the former extension of the Alpine glaciers within infinitely less bounds than had been assigned them by Venetz, Charpentier, and Agassiz. He attributed the dispersion of Scandinavian erratics to the agency of floating ice, when large portions of the Continent and of the British Isles were under the sea.

The Prince, who wore on his breast the blue ribbon and on his coat the star of the Garter, paid great attention to the paper and to the discussion. Not so the poor equerries, who, feeling no interest in the matter, speedily dropped asleep, and, what appeared most amusing, they each leaned upon the Prince's shoulders, and he, quite unconsciously, sat bolt upright and alert to the very end; and after shaking hands with the leading Fellows, he departed to Buckingham Palace with his tired companions.

During the year 1849 the British Association held its meeting at Birmingham, and an excursion was made to Dudley, when Sir Roderick Murchison, in the great cavern of the Castle Hill, briefly explained the system of strata to which he had given the name of 'Silurian.' Afterwards, on adjourning to the Wren's Nest, Sir Roderick further discoursed on the subject; and in proposing a vote of thanks to him, the Bishop of Oxford (Dr. Samuel Wilberforce) said that although Caractacus was an old king of

¹ The paper was published in abstract, *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* vi. p. 65.