

conductor. He wrote on one occasion in 1851, to say that 'I will leave it to Sharpe to fight the battle about dinner. All I stipulate for, is that you will allow us breakfasts.' When Prestwich was no longer able to take part, excursions were for a time continued by some of his old companions; and in 1893 he wrote 'I am glad to hear of the Easter excursions continued under such pleasant conditions, but do not approve of the introduction of that relaxing element, fishing. Why we sometimes had not time to eat fish, much less to catch them.'¹

In 1852, finding that the stock of the Society's *Transactions* did not decrease at a satisfactory rate, the Council reported that

During the past year, Mr. Lumley, the bookseller in Southampton Street, proposed to the Council to purchase the stock of unsold *Transactions* in the Society's possession. The Council, after anxious consideration, came to the conclusion that the best mode of putting these works in circulation, and thereby diffusing a taste for geological research, was to dispose of them to a bookseller of reputation. They accordingly concluded an agreement with Mr. Lumley, under which they made over to him for the sum of 100*l.* all their stock of *Transactions*, with the exception of 50 copies which the Society retains for its own purposes. It was stipulated that the copper plates should continue to be the property of the Society, and Mr. Lumley should have the use of them for completing his own sets.

Serious delays had indeed occurred in the publication of papers in the *Transactions*. In 1845 the important memoir by Andrew Geddes Bain (1797-1864) on the discovery of the fossil remains of Bidental and other Reptiles in South Africa, was read before the Society. The remains were described by Professor Owen as belonging to a new genus, *Dicynodon*. Bain subsequently prepared a geological map of South Africa, a work of conspicuous ability, and the first good map of the country. Ready in 1852, it was forwarded to the Geological Society for

¹ 'Life and Letters of Sir Joseph Prestwich,' 1899, pp. 75, 371, &c.