

At their meeting on December 14, 1853, when there were present Edward Forbes (President), Mr. Horner, Colonel Portlock, Professor Phillips, Dr. Bigsby, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. P. N. Johnson, Mr. Bowerbank, and Mr. Hopkins, it was

Resolved that the Council have learned with regret that Professor Sedgwick is under the impression that the minute passed in May 1852, and subsequently rescinded, imputed to him that he had not complied with an order of the Council. They disclaim having had any such intention, and request the President to communicate with Professor Sedgwick, and to assure him that no such imputation was intended to be conveyed by that minute, the real meaning of which was that the officers charged with the publication of the *Journal* had inadvertently printed matter which the Council had ordered to be suppressed.

In the meantime as Sedgwick had given his views on the controverted question of Cambrian and Silurian nomenclature, Murchison, with whom much sympathy was felt, was rightly accorded permission by the Council to reply in a paper, read June 16, 1852, 'On the Meaning of the Term "Silurian System" as adopted by Geologists in various countries during the last ten years.' As remarked by Sir A. Geikie, 'it was a most temperate and friendly rejoinder.'

Murchison's contention was that he had 'completed in 1838 the illustration of a natural system which had been worked out by fossil evidences in 1833, 1834, and 1835, whilst in the same years Professor Sedgwick had neither shown the real physical relations of his rocks to my already well-known types, nor had he published any descriptions of fossils by which his so-called 'Cambrian System' could be recognised as entitled to a separate name.'¹

Moreover, as 'the Government Surveyors have shown that our mutual boundary line was a mere hypothesis, and

¹ It was not until 1855 that the great work was published by Sedgwick and McCoy on the British Palæozoic Rocks and Fossils.