

been modified by the author, was ordered to be referred back to the [second] referee, to consider whether the alterations made by the author were satisfactory.

On March 9, 1853, Professor Sedgwick's paper was balloted for and ordered to be printed.¹

Sedgwick remarked that 'the paper was opposed by all who took part in the discussion; but they all allowed the importance of the paper, if our statements were correct.'²

As a matter of fact, it settled the question as to the true base of Murchison's Upper Silurian and the higher limit of his Lower Silurian—the Upper Cambrian of Sedgwick; and this view of 'the physical break between the Lower and Upper Silurian contended for by Sedgwick' was admitted afterwards by Murchison.³

In connection with previous remarks it is interesting to read in a letter on these controversial topics, written to Murchison on October 18, 1853, that Sedgwick said, 'I hope you won't think my last *letter* ill-tempered. If so, set it down to the fiend gout;' and he concluded, 'Ever (whether in peace or war) your affectionate old friend, A. Sedgwick.'⁴

The first part only of a subsequent paper by Sedgwick, 'On the May Hill Sandstone, and the Palæozoic System of the British Isles,' was read before the Society on May 3, 1854. The second part of the paper entered on controverted questions, 'in a conviction of their importance.' Afterwards the entire paper, which was printed in short abstract in the *Quarterly Journal*, was withdrawn by the author and published elsewhere.⁵ It cannot be said that Sedgwick was dealt with unjustly on this occasion, more especially as he had communicated during the previous

¹ It appeared in *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* vol. ix. August 1853, p. 215.

² 'Synopsis of the Classification of the British Palæozoic Rocks,' p. xci.

³ 'Life of Sir Roderick I. Murchison,' by A. Geikie, vol. ii. p. 315.

⁴ 'Life and Letters of Sedgwick,' by J. W. Clark and T. McK. Hughes, vol. ii. 1890, p. 256; see also Sedgwick's preface to 'A Catalogue of the Collection of Cambrian and Silurian Fossils,' 1873, p. xxvii.

⁵ *Phil. Mag.* ser. 4, vol. viii. 1854, pp. 301, 359, 472.