

That the word Ordovician proved equally unacceptable to the biographers of Murchison and of Sedgwick is well known.¹ Nevertheless, it is recognised generally that this great Protozoic series of Cambrian, Ordovician, and Silurian contains the records of three important faunas, each deserving of separate designation.²

Ordovician appeared in the title of a paper published in the *Quarterly Journal* in 1882; it has since been adopted in many essays read before the Society, and more recently in the publications of the Geological Survey.³

Sedgwick remarked in 1855 of the Geological Society: 'It was, in its early days, composed of robust, joyous, and independent spirits, who toiled well in the field, and who did battle and cuffed opinions with much spirit and great goodwill;' and he regretted that in after years the discussions, 'while they improved in variety and accuracy of knowledge, became less joyous, less liberal.'⁴ Despite the above remarks, which are not wholly inapplicable now, Sedgwick said (1855) for the last two years he had not been present at a single meeting of the Geological Society. 'Not because I wished to be away, or ever feared to do battle for what I thought the truth, against whatever seeming odds; but simply because I was unable to attend the meetings.' The reason why his personal connection with the Society ceased in the year 1854 is more happily and more justly expressed in the above paragraph, than it was at a much later date when he observed that it 'ought to have ended two years sooner.'⁵

Mention should be made of the distinguished palæontologist, Frederick McCoy (1823-99), who assisted Sir

¹ 'Life and Letters of Sedgwick,' p. 555; see also review by Professor T. G. Bonney, *Nature*, July 10, 1890, p. 242; Sir A. Geikie, 'Text-Book of Geology,' 4th ed. vol. ii. 1903, p. 917; J. E. Marr, 'The Classification of the Cambrian and Silurian Rocks,' 1883.

² C. Lapworth and W. W. Watts, *Proc. Geo. Assoc.* xiii. 1894, p. 345.

³ See also Hudleston, Address to Geol. Soc. 1894.

⁴ Supp. to Introduction to 'A Synopsis of the Classification of the British Palæozoic Rocks,' 1855, pp. xc-xcii.

⁵ Preface to 'Catalogue of Cambrian and Silurian Fossils,' 1873, p. xxix