

out ; but he differed from him in the matter of the Pre-Cambrian or supposed Laurentian rocks, regarding them as metamorphosed Cambrian deposits which had lost all traces of their aqueous origin. Ramsay spoke then of his own work in Pembrokeshire, which he commenced in 1841, when he joined the Geological Survey, and, turning to Hicks, asked 'How old were you at that time?' exclaiming, 'Why, you were only a baby!' During these years there were many stormy debates between Ramsay and Hicks. The former, always impatient of details, and anxious only for broad generalisations, did not readily sympathise with particulars based on palæontological research ; while Hicks, keen and enthusiastic, was sufficiently warm-tempered to be ever ready to do battle.

It has been considered that the relations between the Geological Society and Geological Survey became about this time somewhat strained. The debates on the older rocks of South Wales tended to convey the impression that the results of amateur work were not cordially recognised by the professional geologist. Perhaps it was hardly appreciated at the time that the geological surveyor, who had to carry on his work amid many drawbacks in the struggle for existence, must be imbued with the spirit of the amateur in order to maintain enthusiasm in his task. Nor were Government surveyors the only professional geologists. As Professor Bonney remarked in his presidential address for 1885, a man who has devoted his life to the study and teaching of geology is equally a professional geologist, and 'the discovery of truth is not limited to any age or any workers.' Lyell, after holding a professorship for a short period, found it best to be an unfettered geologist ; and it is obvious that in work requiring long and detailed investigation, the local geologist must ever possess advantages over those who can spend but a year or two in a district.

In 1876 Hicks divided the Pre-Cambrian into Dimetian and Pebidian—the former comprising a mass of crystalline schistose rocks, the latter a group of hard shales and