

Scotland,' and more recently Lord Avebury in his 'Scenery of England,' have brought vividly before us the relations between geological structure and the form of the ground. On the other hand, Professor Hull and Mr. A. J. Jukes-Browne have dealt more particularly with the foundation of the land, in their works on the Physical History and Building of the British Isles. Questions relating to the permanence of continents and ocean-basins have likewise created much discussion.

On February 21, 1862, Andrew Crombie Ramsay was elected president, and he commenced duty by presiding at the annual dinner of the Society, with the Duke of Argyll on his right and the Earl of Ducie on his left, and a company of nearly ninety.¹

As early as 1848 he had been impressed by the evidences of glacial action in North Wales, and in 1860 he published a little volume on 'The Old Glaciers of Switzerland and North Wales,' in which he suggested the possible glacial erosion of certain rock-basins now occupied by lakes. In March 1862, shortly after he had been called to the chair, he brought before the Society his famous paper 'On the Glacial Origin of certain Lakes in Switzerland, the Black Forest, Great Britain, Sweden, North America, and elsewhere,' wherein he advocated excavation by ice-action (see p. 140).

Needless to say, the subject stirred up a lively discussion. 'Lyell damned the paper with faint praise, and Falconer vigorously opposed it. It was admirably defended by Huxley.'² In this, as in other of his brilliant expositions, the enthusiasm of Ramsay carried him somewhat further than was justified by the evidence he had at his command.

The publication of the paper was followed by much criticism by Murchison, J. Carrick Moore, and Professor Bonney,³ and the theory has been more or less severely

¹ 'Memoir of A. C. Ramsay,' by Sir A. Geikie, p. 270.

² 'Memoir of Ramsay,' p. 271.

³ *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* xxvii. p. 312; xxix. p. 382; xxx. p. 479.