

Since the days of Hutton and Werner, whose followers became engaged in keen contests, geologists have been prone to combat, and a history of the workers could not be given without reference to some of their conflicts. That, for instance, relating to the Cambrian and Silurian classification, extending as it did over many years, could not have been passed by; and, in this further discussion of a somewhat thorny subject, advantage has been taken of the Minute Books of the Society. With the aid of extracts, now for the first time made public, it is hoped that some misconceptions may be removed, as it will be manifest that the governing body, though not infallible, strove without fear or favour to promote the best interests of the Society. Nor need the incidents of the dispute lessen our admiration for the work of two illustrious Masters who laid the foundations of our knowledge of the older Palæozoic systems. Great positions are rarely gained without controversy, and although heat will at times be developed, such manifestations amid divergent views are not confined to geologists. They are more apt to find place in the meeting-room or on paper than in the field, where the love of Nature must ever exercise a benign influence. As Huxley once remarked, 'Are you very savage? If so, you must go and take a walk along the sands, and see the slant rays of the sunset tipping the rollers as they break on the beach; that always made even *me* at peace with all the world, and *a fortiori* it will with you' ('Life and Letters,' vol. i. p. 122).

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