

yet were aware of the value of geologic observations. Numerous English theologians rejoiced in this seeming solution to the problem.

However, as Buckland made further geologic studies he began to feel that the series of catastrophes which he and Cuvier had visualized could not have produced all the kinds of geologic structures and formations which he was observing in his field studies. In the fourth decade of the century Buckland participated in the writing of the famed Bridgewater Treatises, under the direction of the Church of England and the Royal Society. This was a series of eight treatises which were to be written with the purpose of "demonstrating the power, wisdom, and goodness of God, as manifested in the Creation." Buckland's contribution, the sixth of the series, entitled Geology and Mineralogy Considered with Reference to Natural Theology, was published in 1836. In it he continued to uphold the Mosaic account of creation, but repudiated his earlier emphasis on the Biblical Flood as producing many of the geologic strata. His position was now nearer to that of Charles Lyell, and he viewed Lyell's long periods of natural geologic processes as occurring prior to the six days of creation.<sup>18</sup> He did not reject the Biblical account of the Flood as a judgment on man, but along with Lyell and many others, adopted the belief that it was more local in its extent, and not the major world catastrophe which most theologians up to that time had thought.

Buckland's change in position with regard to the importance of the Flood caused a great uproar in theological circles, and even among the common church people. Many ministers publicly denounced him as heretical, and many unbecoming insults were hurled at him and at those who held similar views. Even the science of geology itself was frequently denounced as "not a subject of lawful inquiry," "a dark art," "a forbidden province," etc.<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, Buckland continued to show himself loyal to the Scriptures and, during the next several years, lectured widely on the agreement of geology and the Biblical record. In his Bridgewater Treatise he had stated that natural phenomena "abound with proofs of some of the highest attributes of the Deity," and that the science of geology "when fully understood will be found a potent and consistent auxiliary to (revealed religion), exalting our conviction of the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of the Creator."<sup>20</sup> Buckland's public lectures continued to emphasize these themes to the middle of the century.

#### Adam Sedgwick

Likewise, some of Buckland's best known colleagues were defending the trustworthiness of the Bible and reiterating the fact that there is true harmony between the findings of geology and the Mosaic account of creation. One of the most noted of these was Adam Sedgwick, whose position and career was similar to that of Buckland. Sedgwick, like the latter, was an ordained minister and church leader, and also a capable field geologist. He occupied the chair of Geology at Cambridge during most of the time Buckland was at Oxford. Though Sedgwick abandoned his former defense of the Biblical Flood as a major factor in forming the geologic strata, he maintained a long and