

SIR ARCHIBALD GEIKIE, K.C.B., P.R.S., &c.,
HONORARY MEMBER, 1863; PRESIDENT,
1893-1896.

The roll of Presidents of the Geological Society for the West of Scotland would have been woefully incomplete had it not included Sir Archibald Geikie. For, though he was born and educated in Edinburgh, and his two chief Scottish appointments were held in that city, he has made most important contributions to the geology of the Glasgow area, and many passages in his "Reminiscences" and in his "Scenery of Scotland" suggest that the western lochs and islands hold his deepest attachments. That he may be regarded as belonging to Western Scotland by geological and geographical sympathy may be inferred from his fondness for its scenery which he has so eloquently described and interpreted with unequalled insight.

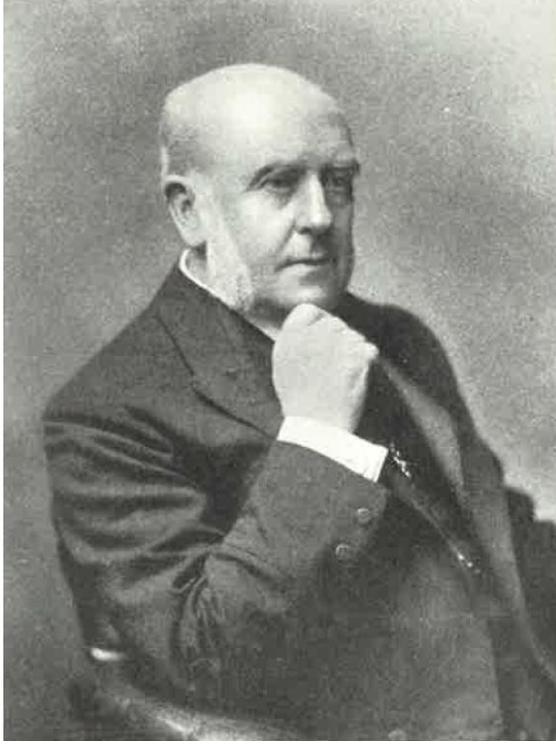
Sir Archibald Geikie was born in Edinburgh on the 28th December, 1835. He was the eldest son of James Stuart Geikie, his younger brother being Professor James Geikie. He was educated at the Edinburgh High School and University, and a charming essay on his first geological excursion shows that his interests in geology were early roused. His original geological work was begun in the Island of Arran, and was described in some articles that attracted the attention of Hugh Miller, by whose influence Geikie was appointed at the end of his University course and at the age of twenty to the Geological Survey of Scotland. Most of his official surveys were in the Southern Uplands, Ayrshire, and the neighbourhood of Glasgow.

His intimate personal knowledge of our area enabled him to draw from it many striking illustrations in his text-book and in his monumental work on "The Ancient Volcanoes of the British Isles." His name is familiar to us at the foot of several of the maps of the Glasgow district. His researches were by no means confined to the area of his official duties. He explored the Western Highlands and Islands, especially studying their extinct volcanoes and the Old Red Sandstone. He accompanied Sir Roderick Murchison in some of his Scottish journeys, and in 1861 was associated as joint author in two of Murchison's most famous Scottish papers, those on "The Coincidence of Stratification and Foliation" in the rocks of the Durness-Eriboll area, and on "The Sequence of Rocks in the South-western Highlands in comparison with that of the Grampians."

In 1871 Sir Archibald Geikie was appointed Murchison Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at the University of Edinburgh, and in the same year he married a daughter of Mons. Pignatel, of Lyons.

He had meanwhile, in 1867, been appointed Director of the Geological Survey for Scotland, and, after the retirement of Sir Andrew Ramsay in 1882, was naturally selected as DirectorGeneral of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Ireland. He promptly began energetic and needed reforms. He secured the removal of some members of the staff whose work had been unsatisfactory, and attracted to it some of the most promising British geologists. On his retirement in 1901 it was universally recognised that he had greatly raised the status of the Survey, and secured its permanent establishment. In 1903 his administrative ability found fresh scope as secretary of the Royal Society, and he has recently been elected its president. In 1906-7 he received the high compliment especially significant as it came from the most expert body of geologists in the British Isles of re-election as President of the Geological Society for a second term of office, so that he might preside at the Centenary of the Society. He had been President of the Society in 1891 and 1892, and President of the British Association at Edinburgh in 1892. The wide range of his work and influence naturally secured widespread recognition; he has received honorary degrees from all four Scotch Universities, and from Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin; he is an honorary correspondent of the chief foreign scientific Academies, including the Institutes of France and Rome, the Academies of Belgium, Berlin, Christiania, Gottingen, Munich, New York, Philadelphia, Stockholm, Turin, and Vienna. He has received the chief medals at the disposal of the Geological Society, the Royal Society, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and others from foreign societies and Academies. Sir Archibald Geikie's connection with the Society dates from 1862, when he read his important memoir "On the Phenomena of the Glacial Drift of Scotland" which occupies the second and larger part of the first volume of our Transactions. He is the senior honorary member of the Society, having been elected early in 1863. He was President from 1893 to 1896, and gave to the Society as his presidential address a graphic history of "The Latest Volcanoes of the British Isles." It is impossible in a brief notice even to mention the various branches of geology and geography which Sir Archibald Geikie has advanced, and it would be unfitting to estimate the value of his work while it is still in progress. His writings are voluminous, and they are always original and suggestive. He has written more books than any other living British geologist, and his work covers an unusually wide range; his best-known researches are connected with physical geology, especially with denudation, glaciation, and volcanic action, with the formation of the Old Red Sandstone and the evolution of scenery; in a book which should be in every Scotchman's library he has followed Scottish scenery back to its geological causes, and in some

illuminating essays he has traced the psychological influences of geographical conditions and landscape upon the character and literature of the British race.



Sir Archibald Geikie

The following papers by Sir Archibald Geikie have been published in the Society's Transactions :

"On the Phenomena of the Glacial Drift of Scotland." Trans. Geol. Soc., Glasgow, vol. i., part ii., 1863, pp. 8-190. Map.

"Lecture on the Origin of the Present Scenery of Scotland." Trans. Geol. Soc., Glasgow, vol. ii., part i., 1865, pp. 4-12.

"On the Order of Succession among the Silurian Bocks of Scotland." Trans. Geol. Soc., Glasgow, vol. iii., part i., 1868, pp. 74-95.

"On Modern Denudation." Ibid., pp. 153-190.

"The Latest Volcanoes of the British Isles." Trans. Geol. Soc., Glasgow, vol. x., part ii., 1896, pp. 179-197.

"Recent Researches into the History of the Deposits known as Old Red Sandstone." Trans. Geol. Soc., Glasgow, vol. v., part ii, pp. 276-281.