

BRITISH MUSEUM.

MEMORIAL to the Chancellor of the Exchequer
respecting the Purchase, for the BRITISH
MUSEUM, of Mr. *Havokins'* COLLECTION OF
ORGANIC REMAINS, &c.

(*Mr. Warburton.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
27 March 1839.

RETURN to an ORDER of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 14 March 1839;—for,

COPY of a MEMORIAL to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, from the Marquis of Northampton and others, respecting the PURCHASE, for the BRITISH MUSEUM, of Mr. Hawkins' COLLECTION OF ORGANIC REMAINS; with the ANSWER to such Memorial.

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, }
23 March 1839. }

F. BARING.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 27 March 1839.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER,
THE MEMORIAL of the Undersigned

Humbly Showeth,

THAT your Memorialists have heard, with great concern, that a recent offer for sale to the British Museum, by Mr. Mantell and Mr. Hawkins, of two valuable Collections, illustrating the Geology of an important portion of England, has been declined, in consequence of the deficiency of the national revenue for the present year.

That many of your Memorialists who are conversant with the subject, have examined these collections, and consider them not only to be of peculiar value, as demonstrating the subterraneous structure of this country, but also of general interest to the scientific world, as throwing new and important lights on many branches of research that are now conducted with unexampled activity in all countries, for the purpose of illustrating the physical history of the globe, and applying such knowledge also to the useful purposes of life.

That with a view to the advancement of such objects, societies and museums have been established in nearly all the large provincial towns of this kingdom, and still more extensive museums provided at the national expense by all the governments in the civilized world. And as your Memorialists would consider it to be conducive to the honour and scientific reputation of England if these collections were placed in the British Museum, so it would, in their opinion, be both detrimental to science and injurious to the honour of the nation, if they were allowed to be broken up and dispersed by public sale, or purchased by any foreign government.

That the getting together of these collections has resulted from a concurrence of such rare opportunities and extraordinary qualifications in the individuals by whom they have been made, that if the occasion which now offers of securing to the nation the fruits of such rare coincidences be not made use of, it must be lost for ever.

Northampton, Marquis of, F.R.S., F.G.S.
Norwich, Bishop of, President of the Linnæan Society.
W. Whewell, President Geological Society of London.
E. Darwin, Secretary Geological Society of London.
W. Hamilton, Secretary Geological Society of London.
W. Clift, Curator of the Hunterian Museum.
R. Owen, Hunterian Professor at the Royal College of Surgeons.
William Buckland, Professor of Geology, Oxford.
A. Sedgwick, Professor of Geology, Cambridge.
J. Phillips, Professor of Geology, King's College, London.
John Taylor, Secretary to the British Association for the Advancement of Science.
C. Stokes, F.R.S., F.G.S., F.L.S.
W. Broderip, F.R.S., F.G.S., F.L.S.
J. Bostock, M.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c.
P. M. Roget, M.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S.
C. Lyell, F.R.S., F.O.S., F.L.S.

HAWKINS' COLLECTION OF ORGANIC REMAINS.

The above is a true copy of the Memorial which was presented in the Session of 1838 to the Chancellor of the Exchequer; and the above list contains, to the best of my recollection, the names of the gentlemen by whom the Memorial was signed.

Oxford, 8 March 1839.

Wm. Buckland.

My Lord,

Treasury Chambers, 19 March 1839.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having had under their consideration the Memorial signed by your Lordship and other gentlemen, recommending the Geological Collections of Dr. Mantell and Mr. Hawkins should be purchased for the British Museum, I have it in command to acquaint your Lordship, for the information of the Memorialists, that my Lords have already directed an estimate to be prepared for the purchase of Dr. Mantell's collection, and they reserve the question of Mr. Hawkins' collection for further consideration.

I am, &c.

(signed) *G. J. Pennington.*

To the Marquis of Northampton,
&c. &c. &c.
