the mountain burns. It must not be supposed that, when the stone is resting on the slope beneath a cliff, the work of destruction is over. I suspect that in many cases, could we watch it, we should find it proceeded with increased rapidity. A cube of stone in a cliff will at most only offer three or four faces to the corroding action of air and water, to the destructive influences of heat and cold; the same, when detached, will offer five or even six. As every mason knows, there are not a few building stones that must not be used for corners. I do not of course question Mr. Fisher's remark, "If the talus grows, the inevitable result must be that the vertical face will become in time a slope;" but I am not sure that the talus *does* grow; at any rate, I do not think that we can readily lay down a general rule; each case will have to be judged separately; the growth will depend upon the nature of the rock, the magnitude of the streams, the climate of the locality, and many other causes which will greatly complicate the question. Taluses may increase in one age, diminish in another; or at the same time be growing in one country, while dwindling in another. With regard to that particular cirque in Skye of which I spoke, I believe that a few able-bodied men could clear out in a short day's work all the débris that has accumulated since the Glacial epoch. It must not be forgotten, in the case of many rocks, the destruction of the talus will not be confined to the surface; the streams often more or less sink into it, and wherever the water makes its way, there disintegration will proceed. I believe therefore, as I have said, that a talus does not *necessarily* mark more than a stage in Nature's quarrying operation, and that she may be, and sometimes is, quite competent to remove all her 'spoil' without the intervention of a glacier. With regard to the mode of formation of cirques, I can only say that I have never seen one where there have not been many small convergent streams, and that I believe the two will be found as inseparable as cause and effect usually are. A quaquaversal dip would, no doubt, be favourable to the production of a cirque, but I have no reason to suspect its existence in most of those cases which I described in my communication to the Geological Society.

T. G. Bonney.

ON THE LIMESTONE AT CANNINGTON PARK,[1] NEAR BRIDGWATER.

Sir,—As some doubts have been entertained as to the date of the Limestone occurring at Cannington Park, it may be worth mentioning that I have lately had an opportunity of examining the corals that have been collected from that locality by the Earl of Cavan, by Mr. J. D. Pring, of 22, Hampton Park, near Bristol, and by the late Mr. William Baker, F.G.S., of Bridgwater; the specimens collected by the latter being now in the Taunton Museum.

They consist of the following Carboniferous genera and species:—

1. *Lithostrotion Martini.*
2. *Lithostrotion irregulare.*
3. *Lithostrotion aranea.*
4. *Clisiophyllum turbinatum.*
5. *Clisiophyllum, sp. ?*
6. *Syringopora ramulosa.*

[1] See Proceedings of Somersetshire Archæological and Nat. History Society. Vol. for 1850, p. 129; 1852, p. 125; 1854, p. 105.

Lithostrotion aranea I believe to be of very rare occurrence at Cannington Park. But one specimen as far as I am aware has been obtained from the locality, and that by Mr. Pring. This specimen, with the others collected by him, are now in the Museum of Practical Geology in Jermyn Street. I should expect *Cyathophyllum Murchisoni* to occur in this Limestone, though I have not as yet seen an example of this species among the Cannington fossils. There are some corals in Mr. Pring's collection from the same locality which would at first sight appear to be of Devonian type, but on account of their obscurity and bad preservation it is difficult to determine their nature. I have not observed them in the Mountain Limestone of any other district. The corals in the Cannington Limestone do not appear to have attained a large size.

The Limestone in parts is Oolitic in structure, and is identical in character with that developed in the neighbourhood of Bristol. It undoubtedly belongs to the Upper Carboniferous Limestone, and is probably of the same date as those portions of the massive limestone occurring in the Mendips, and in the neighbourhood of Bristol, of which *Lithostrotion Martini* is a characteristic coral.

Small opaque quartz crystals, with double terminations, presenting an Oolitic structure, occur in portions of the Cannington Limestone, of which there is a specimen in the Taunton Museum, with the crystals weathered on the surface, collected by Mr. Baker.

It is important to observe that there are some specimens in the Taunton Museum, from the collection of Mr. Baker, which I hardly believe are from Cannington Park, though labelled as such, and though some are specimens from the Mountain Limestone. One consists of a large polished slab of a Devonian astræiform coral of unusual size (*Cyathophyllum Boloniense*), and is palæontologically and lithologically distinct from the Cannington Limestone. The Limestone composing this specimen is of a white pearly colour, with a bluish-grey tinge, translucent, highly-crystalline, and impregnated with sulphuret of iron (iron pyrites). I believe Mr. Baker obtained it of Hurford, a stone-mason at Bridgwater, on whose authority he labelled it "Cannington Park." Judging from the quality and size of the specimen, I should think it must be from Devonshire.

HENBURY, BRISTOL,
Jan. 1872.

S. G. PERCEVAL.

THE GREENLAND METEORIC STONES.

SIR,—On the 30th of June, 1862, I sent a letter to the *Hampshire Chronicle*, entitled "Twenty Steps in the International Exhibition." It ended thus, in reference to a "so-called meteorite" which was exhibited. "All *evidence* that a meteorite ever fell on earth is unworthy of belief. The *argument* for it is this. Nickel, iron, etc., are not found similarly mingled in any other substance on *earth*. If they were they would not be an *other* substance, but the *same* substance. But does it follow from this that the substance comes from *heaven?* How many other substances must come from heaven by this reasoning?" In the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for October, 1864,