

plained by Mr. Forbes in a recent number of the Popular Science Review, and previously by Professor Jukes in his Manual. The reviewer in the Quarterly Journal of Science, by the context, would seem to be quite aware of the proper difference between Lithology and Petrology, my only excuse, therefore, for occupying any of your space is the vague way he expresses himself, which undoubtedly must mislead all young geologists.

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THE FETISH WORSHIP OF FOSSILS.

SIR,—The subject-matter of my letter, as indicated by the above heading, has upon various occasions pressed itself on my notice during my visits to collections belonging to private individuals, but more especially to soi-disant scientific persons, in various parts of England; and I think that a ventilation of it may do good by calling attention to a reform which is much needed.

First of all, I will describe what I have seen in some of the "Arcanas of Science." Imagine a series of glass-cases and drawers crammed with specimens augmented in number in a *duplicate* ratio, guiltless of labels, piled one on another, "in confusion worse confounded," suggestive alike of the interior of a *marine* store, and of an attempt to give a practical illustration of the probable scheme of Creation according to the Mosaic account. These collections belong to Fossilists whose ignorance of Palæontology reminds one of the Naturalists of the old school, whom the late E. Forbes used to describe as examining animals as though they were merely skins filled with straw, and whose scientific acumen displays itself in estimating the worth of a specimen by its *uniqueness*. The "*minatus amor natendi*" is strong in the minds of these worthies, and to part with any of their duplicates would be in their opinion to run the risk of losing a future chance of immortalizing themselves as the fortunate possessors of some new and *unique* species.

It is probable that I may have cast upon me the dregs of the "odium theologicum" which was poured out from the "phials of wrath" with such remarkable success during the late election; but if I can procure for some neglected pre-Adamite relic "a *local habitation and a name*" in some county museum, which would otherwise be fated in all probability to point a moral and adorn a grotto in a country village, I shall consider myself amply recompensed.

Example being better than precept, let me refer to the munificent gift of fossils lately made to the Norwich Museum by one of your reverend contributors.

PHILO-TAXIS.

BGOTLA TRANS-AVONENSIS, *January, 1869.*

OBITUARY.

GEORGE VICTOR DU NOYER.—On the third day of January, at Antrim, where he was engaged superintending the Geological Survey of the North of Ireland, died George Victor Du Noyer, M.R.I.A.,