

one day he may claim me as a thorough-going convert; but at present I anticipate that it will be my ultimate fate here, as in other things, to maintain that truth lies between opposite extremes.

As I am writing, I may as well briefly notice another criticism on some work of mine in the south-west. In the Transactions of the Devonshire Association a paper has recently appeared (p. 349), advocating the old view of a gradual transition between the slaty and the crystalline series in the Start and Bolt Head districts. As the writer has "to confess to much ignorance as to the methods and results of microscopic research," and the question is one in which such methods are essential in order to distinguish real differences, and avoid being misled by superficial resemblances, I cannot admit that he is qualified to investigate the subject, or waste time by discussing it with him, and will only say, that, though since I wrote the paper I have frequently examined my specimens and slides, I have seen no reason to alter my opinion as to the separateness of the two groups of rocks. Moreover, a paper will shortly appear in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, by a careful observer in the field and worker with the microscope, in which much additional evidence is brought forward in favour of my view. It would be thought strange if any one were to enter into a dispute as to the interpretation of a corrupt passage in a chorus of a tragedy of *Æschylus*, without a preliminary study of the niceties of the Greek language; yet this is the course which some persons follow in petrology, and seem to think that thereby they are doing a service to science.

T. G. BONNEY.

OBITUARY.

REV. W. S. SYMONDS, M.A., F.G.S.

BORN 1818; DIED 1887.

Forty years ago, the promotion of Natural Science throughout the country was mainly entrusted to the agency of the various local Field Clubs and Natural History Societies, amongst the most active and useful of which may be mentioned the Malvern Natural History Field Club, the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, and the Cotteswold Club. It was in the districts over which these clubs held sway that the subject of our present notice passed the best years of his life and carried on those geological labours with which his name will always stand associated.

Mr. Symonds was born at Hereford in 1818, being the son of William Symonds, Esq., of Elsdon, Herefordshire. After passing through his school-days with Mr. Allen at Cheltenham, and reading with the Rev. J. P. Sill, he was sent to Christ's College, Cambridge, where Sedgwick was then in the height of his popularity as a geological lecturer. He took his degree in 1842, and in 1843 he was appointed Curate of Offenham, near Evesham, where he became acquainted with Mr. Hugh Strickland, from whom he received many of his first lessons in Natural History. In 1845 he was presented to the Rectory of Pendock, near Tewkesbury.

Mr. Symonds married, in 1840, Hyacinth, daughter of Samuel Kent, Esq., of Upton-on-Severn, and had issue three sons and one daughter; the latter only now survives him, and is married to Sir J. D. Hooker, K.C.S.I., F.R.S.

From an early date Mr. Symonds became the friend and associate of Sir William Vernon Guise, Bart., of Elmore Court, near Gloucester, and it is significant that the two attached friends died within a few days of one another, viz. 15th and 24th Sept. (see *GEOL. MAG.* Nov. 1887, p. 528).

Mr. Symonds assisted in the foundation of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, and was elected its President in 1854. He was also President of the Malvern Naturalists' Field Club from 1853 and for many years subsequently.

In 1857 he visited Dublin, in order to attend the Meeting of the British Association, and availed himself of the opportunity to make a geological tour through Ireland (see *Geologist*, 1858, pp. 292-296 and 330-335). In this year he also published a work entitled "Stones of the Valley."

In 1858 we find him busy in the field exploring the bone-bed of the Upper Ludlow rocks and their characteristic fossils (*Geologist*, 1858, p. 15). Mr. Symonds examined in 1859 the reptiliferous sandstone near Elgin (see *Edinburgh New Phil. Journ.* 1860, vol. xii. p. 95), and in the year following he was watching the results of the geological sections exposed in the Malvern and Ledbury Tunnels with Mr. A. Lambert (*Geologist*, 1861, p. 148). In 1863 he made a geological ramble through Wales, an account of which he communicated to the Worcester Nat. Hist. Soc. *Trans.* 1864. A new edition of his book entitled "Old Bones, or Notes for young Naturalists," was issued in 1864, the first edition having appeared in 1859.

In the summer of 1866, accompanied by his friend Sir W. V. Guise, Bart., Mr. Symonds visited Belgium, and under the guidance of Prof. Dupont, explored the Bone-Caverns of the Valley of the Lesse, and gave an interesting description of the same to the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club (*GEOL. MAG.* 1866, pp. 564-570).

In 1871 Mr. Symonds published, in Dr. H. Woodward's Monograph on the Merostomata, some interesting Notes on Silurian localities in the West of England where these fossil Crustacea occur (see *Pal. Soc. Mon. Brit. Foss. Crustacea*, 1871, part iii. pp. 92-104). In the same year Mr. Symonds explored the Hyæna-Den (known as King Arthur's Cave) on the Great Doward, Whitchurch, Ross (see *GEOL. MAG.* Vol. VIII. p. 433).

In the year following (1872) he brought out his "Record of the Rocks," an excellent and readable handbook for students of the Geology of the West of England.

The autumns of 1874, 5, and 6, were spent in company with Sir Wm. Guise, Mr. Lucy, and others, in exploring the volcanoes and tracing the ancient glaciers of Auvergne and those of the Haute Loire and the Ardèche (see the *Pop. Sci. Rev.* vol. xv. 1876, and *N. Ser.* vol. i. pp. 1, 250, 329, 1877).

In 1880 Mr. Symonds published a second edition of his book

entitled "Old Stones," and also his romance of "Malvern Chase," which reached a third edition in 1883. In this year he issued two more works, namely, "Hanley Castle," a romance; and the "Severn Straits," a geological work. Altogether he was the author of more than forty papers which have appeared in various scientific journals.

The main object of Mr. Symonds' active and useful career, and to the furtherance of which all his best energies were directed, was the promotion of a love for Geological, Botanical, and Archæological pursuits and studies, amongst the very large circle of educated people in the West of England by whom he was surrounded, whose tastes he strove to elevate and direct, and whose leisure hours he endeavoured to occupy with healthful and intellectual pursuits.

Although a clergyman and a Justice of the Peace for the county of Worcestershire, he was above all things an ardent Naturalist and Geologist, and he was never so happy as when conducting the members of his own Naturalists' Field-clubs over some classical region in "Siluria," with every spot of which he was familiar.

For several years before his death he had been compelled by ill-health to withdraw from his parish duties, but he remained as full of interest in all scientific matters as ever to the last.

Mr. Symonds died on the 15th September, at Cheltenham.

His loss, like that of his friend Sir W. V. Guise, will long be felt in the West of England, where the services and presence of both had exercised so beneficial an influence over a very wide and intelligent community for nearly half a century.—H.W.¹

AUGUST FRIEDRICH COUNT MARSCHALL, of Burgholzhausen and Tromsdorf, who has frequently contributed to the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, as well as to the *Quart. Journ. Geological Society*, notes on Geology and Palæontology, especially from the researches of his Colleagues in Vienna, died suddenly on the 11th of October, in his 83rd year. He was a Foreign Correspondent of the Geological Society of London, and Correspondent and Member of many other learned Societies,—also Hereditary Marschal in Thuringia, Imp. Roy. Chamberlain, and formerly Archivist of the Imp. Roy. Geological Institute of Vienna. His frequent communications on papers read at the Academy, Institute, and other Societies, forwarded by him to various European friends and periodicals, were continued with his usual industry (his motto being "Nunquam otiosus") to within a short time of his death. His "Nomenclator zoologicus," combining both recent and fossil genera, published by the Zoologico-Botanical Society of Vienna in 1873, is a very valuable book of reference; and the "Ornis Vindobonensis," 1882, is written in conjunction with Dr. A. von Pelzeln, also bears evidence to our deceased friend COUNT MARSCHALL's scientific zeal and usefulness.—T. R. J.

¹ We regret to record the death, on October 4th, at Tonga, of Mr. H. F. Symonds, only remaining son of the late Rev. W. S. Symonds. He was Consul at Samoa and Deputy Commissioner of the Western Pacific. He was only 32 years of age and a man of great promise.