

history not less varied and extended than that of the entire Palæozoic era—and which he believes are in all cases of Pre-Cambrian date.

Dr. Hunt was the principal organizer and first Secretary of the International Committee for a Geological Congress; the first meeting of which was held at Paris in 1878, and the second at Bologna in 1881, at both of which he took an active part as one of the Vice-Presidents, and by his cordiality and good fellowship, backed by ability and knowledge, contributed much to the maintenance of a good understanding among the representatives of all the English-speaking nations gathered at Bologna. His work did not end at Bologna, and on his way home he, first at Paris (*Compte-rendu sommaire Soc. Géol. France*, Nov. 7, 1881), and afterwards in London (*Abst. Proc. Geol. Soc.* Nov. 16, 1881), gave an account of his recent examination of the metamorphic rocks of Italy and Germany, and his views as to their correlation with the older crystalline rocks of America and Britain. He also brought before the Philosophical Society of Cambridge his matured views with regard to the distribution of extremely attenuated matter through interstellar space (*Proc. Camb. Phil. Soc.* Nov. 28, 1881), pointing out that practically the same idea had been suggested by Newton in his earlier work, and had taken more definite shape in later editions. The University of Cambridge conferred on him the Honorary Degree of LL.D., and we hope that this new tie may unite our spirited scientific ally more closely to us, and insure a not too long deferred return to our shore.—CANTAB.

THE TORRIDON SANDSTONE.

SIR,—I shall be obliged if you will allow me to correct an important misprint which occurs in the abstract of the debate on my paper on the Torridon Sandstone at the Geological Society, Dec. 21st. In my reply, I am represented as saying that north-east of Queenaig the sandstone passes “unconformably” under the quartzite. This contradicts my main conclusion. For “unconformably” read “conformably.”

WELLINGTON, SALOP, Dec. 31, 1881.

C. CALLAWAY.

RATE OF DENUDATION OF THE LAND BY RIVERS.

SIR,—Mr. Tylor seems to have made a slip in his calculations. 3^s is not 729 but 243. This makes Mr. Tylor's results three times too much. The 3000 years, of Mr. Tylor's sixth paragraph, will thus become 9000; the mean denudation not nine but three inches a year; and the annual rise of the sea-level one inch only.

In paragraph five—“the supposed period of 729 years” is probably a printer's error.

I am unable to follow Mr. Tylor's reasoning, and shall be glad of some information on the subject. For instance:

1. Where can I find Mr. Tylor's “formula of the increase of velocity of water at the same slope”?
2. Where some account of the “Pluvial Period”?