

THE RIGHT HON. BARON AVEBURY,
D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., ETC.

BORN APRIL 30, 1834.

DIED MAY 28, 1913.

IN the death of Lord Avebury natural science has lost one of its most enthusiastic and cultured disciples. Born at Eaton Place, London, he was the son of Sir John William Lubbock, 3rd Baronet, F.R.S., F.G.S., a distinguished mathematician and astronomer, who died in 1865. John Lubbock succeeded to the baronetcy in that year, and was created Baron Avebury in 1900. He received a school education at Eton, but no University training, as his services were wanted before he had attained the age of 15 in the banking-house of Robarts, Lubbock & Co., Lombard Street, an establishment of which his father was then the Head. John Lubbock became a partner in the firm in 1856 and succeeded to the chief position on the death of his father. It will be unnecessary here to refer in particular to his great business capacity and to the services he rendered to commerce, the arts, and to education in general. As a Member of Parliament he represented Maidstone and afterwards the University of London, taking an active part in promoting the Ancient Monuments Act, the Open Spaces Act, and many other measures.

Interest in the study of natural history was developed in Lubbock at an early age, and the proximity of his home at High Elms, near Farnborough, to that of Darwin at Down, in Kent, no doubt greatly influenced the character of his recreative pursuits. In course of time he acquired a wide range of knowledge in archæology, entomology, botany, and geology, and we may be content here to refer to his researches on the first and last of these subjects.

One of his earliest discoveries, made in 1855 in company with Charles Kingsley, was that of the skull of a musk-ox in a gravel-pit close to Maidenhead railway station, and the specimen was described by Owen in the following year as the first example which had come under his notice from a British locality. In 1860 and again in 1862 and 1863 he joined Prestwich and others in excursions to the flint-implement-bearing districts of Amiens and Abbeville, and in 1861 he spent a holiday in Switzerland with Tyndall and Huxley. The knowledge thereby obtained stimulated those further studies which led in one direction to the publication in 1865 of Lubbock's *Pre-historic Times, as illustrated by Ancient Remains and the Manners and Customs of Modern Savages*. This work was followed in 1870 by *The Origin of Civilisation and the Primitive Condition of Man*. Both works have attained to the sixth edition. It may further be mentioned that he was associated with Huxley, Busk, and others as one of the editors of the *Natural History Review* (1861-5). In 1867 he brought before the Geological Society a paper "On the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy", advocating their formation in a lake, the waves in which did not arrest but threw down to lower levels the angular debris of the hill-slopes. His interest in Switzerland led to many journeys to that country and to the publication in 1896 of *The Scenery of Switzerland and the Causes to which it is due*. Of this work a fourth edition has been issued. A companion volume on

The Scenery of England and the Causes to which it is due was published in 1902, and the subject, beautifully illustrated, clearly expounded, and treated in an enthusiastic spirit, made the work so popular that it had reached a fifth edition.

In 1903 Lord Avebury gave to the Geological Society the results of "An Experiment in Mountain-building", based on apparatus which produced compression in two directions. The features thus produced on pieces of carpet-baize and alternating layers of sand were illustrated in his short published account of the phenomena.

He was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1855, and in 1903 the Council awarded to him the first Prestwich Medal. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1858, and became a Trustee of the British Museum in 1878, taking a warm interest in its affairs, and especially in the Natural History branch, afterwards established in South Kensington. He was chosen president of many societies representing diverse scientific and practical subjects, among them the Linnean, Royal Microscopical, Ray, Entomological, and Statistical Societies, and the Anthropological Institute. As the representative of many sciences he was fitly selected to preside over the jubilee meeting of the British Association held at York in 1881.

Lord Avebury was twice married, his second wife being daughter of General Pitt-Rivers, F.R.S. He died at his seaside residence, Kingsgate Castle, near Margate, and was buried on May 31 at Farnborough churchyard, Kent. He is succeeded in the Peerage by the Hon. John Birkbeck Lubbock, his eldest son.

HERBERT KELSALL SLATER, F.G.S.

BORN AUGUST 28, 1875.

DIED MAY 2, 1913.

WE regret to record the death from snake-bite of Mr. Herbert Kelsall Slater, F.G.S., Assistant Geologist and Acting Second State Geologist to the Mysore Government. He was the son of the Rev. T. E. Slater, a well-known missionary in Mysore, and was educated at Bishop's Stortford College, Herts, and the Central College, Bangalore. In October, 1894, he joined the newly formed Mysore Geological Department under Mr. Bruce Foote, and afterwards served under his successors, Dr. J. W. Evans and Dr. W. F. Smeeth. He had already acquired a competent knowledge of geology in India when he returned to England in 1901 and studied at the Royal College of Science under Professor J. W. Judd. In 1909 he again visited this country for purposes of study, and afterwards spent some months in Canada and made himself familiar with its crystalline rocks, as these present many points of similarity to those on which he was working in India. He mapped a considerable portion of Mysore, especially in the Shimoga, Tarikere, and Kadur Districts, which lie in the north and west of the State, and brought an independent mind to the problems that presented themselves. His work will be found in the Records of the Mysore Geological Department. See vol. ii, pp. 118-30, 1899; vol. iii, pp. 148-62, 1901; vol. iv, pp. 119-46, 1903; vol. v, pt. ii, pp. 35-56, 1904; vol. vi, pt. ii, pp. 5-26, 1905 ('intrusive' and 'corrosive')