

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LATE MR. EDWARD WOOD, J.P., F.G.S.

SIR,—Your obituary notice (GEOL. MAG. Oct.) of the late Mr. Wood, of Richmond, omits a circumstance in his life which the writer may not have known—but which ought not to be left unrecorded.

Mr. Wood was a man with a warm and feeling heart; and some years ago, when it was the fashion for ladies to wear seabirds' wings in their hats, gangs of merciless ruffians used to put out in boats from the coast towns of the north-east of England for the purpose of capturing the birds (which breed on Flamborough Head) while sitting on their nests. Not satisfied with this, they would often tear the wings from the bodies, retaining only the former, and throwing the latter into the sea.

During Mr. Wood's geological excursions he became a witness to this revolting practice, which he determined if possible to put an end to. He foresaw that unless this was done the whole race of seabirds on that coast would be exterminated. He immediately put himself in communication with gentlemen of influence in that part of the country, described with natural indignation what he had seen with his own eyes, and obtained their aid in bringing the matter before members of Parliament. He also went up to London and had interviews with members of the Government and of both Houses of Parliament, and at length had the satisfaction of seeing a Bill carried into law, for the protection of sea-fowl during the breeding season. All who love the feathered tribes, therefore, owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Wood, of Richmond, Yorkshire.

DUBLIN, 14th October, 1877.

E. H.

TRIPARTITE ORIGIN OF THE BOULDER-CLAYS OF THE NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND.

SIR,—From repeated examinations of a number of constantly varying sections around the estuaries of the Dee and Mersey, I have been led to adopt the theory of a tripartite derivation of the constituents of the two Boulder-clays—the normal *sand and coarse grit* from the *local* Triassic, Permian, and Carboniferous sandstones; the abnormal *clay* (of which the deposits mainly consist) from “mud” issuing from beneath glaciers (chiefly in the Lake District) when they descended as low, or nearly as low as the sea-level; the equally abnormal *erratic stones* transported and dropped into the slowly accumulating clay by floating coast-ice, the sea having been too shallow to float icebergs, which indeed would either directly or indirectly have disturbed the surface of the middle sand (which, away from the mountains, almost invariably indicates the prevalence of extremely tranquil conditions) when the upper clay began to be deposited. The *clay* may have been partly worked up from the local shales and so-called marls, but its wide distribution, general uniformity of character, and great amount, are clearly incompatible with the idea of its having been mainly of *local* derivation.