

The Club met for dinner in the 'Tower' on the top of Sweeney Hill. After dinner, several new Members were elected, and it was decided, in addition to the Meeting intended to be held at Llangollen in August, to have an excursion to Westbury in September. A visit was then paid to the quarries in the Millstone Grit on the west side of Sweeney Hill; and in the one nearest to the Tower, the line of fault to which the hill owes its elevation was well seen. In the next, the uppermost beds of Grit were seen dipping unconformably under the Coal-measures; and from some of the highest beds were obtained numerous specimens of *Productus semireticulatus*, var. *Martini*, associated with Calamite-stems and a unique example of a large Annelid, together with many Fucoids. Some attention was next paid to the 'Pockets' which occur in the thick Sandstone-beds. The character of the beds downwards to the subjacent Mountain-limestone was noticed as fully as time would allow, and the horizon of the various fossils hitherto discovered was pointed out by one of the Members. The branch railway before referred to cuts through the formation in a line nearly coincident with its dip; and the Members present were able to traverse the whole series, and to verify the fossiliferous nature of the lower beds. Thus terminated a very pleasant and instructive excursion.—D. C. D.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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*To the Editor of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.*

DEAR SIR,—A few days ago, I observed at the Talargoch Mine, near Prestatyn, Flintshire, a very curious, and, as I believe, unusual form of quartz, which, I think, is worth noticing in the Magazine.

The mine is situated at the foot of a bold escarpment of Mountain-limestone forming the western termination of one of the great limestone ranges that run through Denbighshire and Flintshire. Most of the lodes occurring in the black shales and limestones at the base of the Carboniferous series run ENE. by WSW., and contain sulphurets of lead and zinc in a matrix of quartz and calc-spar. One of the lodes running east and west, nearly vertical, and from three to six feet in width, is almost entirely occupied with silicious sand of the most perfect purity and lustrous whiteness. Just at the side of the lode, at its junction with the limestone, a little calcareous and quartz-spar occurs, which, in a few places, runs into the body of the lode; and an isolated nodule of spar, with a little galena, is occasionally found: but otherwise the whole lode is a mass of homogeneous and fine-grained sand, soft enough to be friable under the miner's 'pick,' and when dry quite incoherent, breaking up into fine dusty particles. A gradation between this white sand and the regularly crystallized quartz is occasionally met with in the form of white saccharoid spar; and it would be difficult to determine whether this sand-lode is merely decomposed quartz, or a segregation of silica that had never attained complete crystallization. The lode near the

shaft at the foot of the escarpment is worked by a level about 125 feet deep; it appears to thicken, and the sand increases in purity and freedom from crystalline spar to the east, where, under the limestone range, it is much farther from the surface. I am informed that the late Mr. Hewson, Analytical Chemist, of Liverpool, could detect no trace of metallic oxide or other foreign matter, and ascertained the sand to be absolutely pure silica with a little water. I enclose some of the sand for your inspection: it is, without exception, the whitest mineral I have ever seen, and should think such a perfectly pure form of native silica would be of great value in the manufacture of the better kinds of glass and pottery.

I remain yours very truly,

GEORGE MAW.

BENTHALL, BROSELEY: June 19, 1865.

P.S.—As I recently described, in the pages of the Magazine, some deposits of sand in cavities in the Mountain-limestone of the same district, I would state that they are of a totally different age and character to the sand in the Talargoch Mine lode. I have recently observed, over a large district of Flintshire and Denbighshire, a great extension of the white sand and clay deposits, older than the boulder-clay-drift, similar to those at Llandudno.

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*To the Editor of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.*

SIR,—The President of the Geological Society, in his able address which appears in the 'Journal' of the Society for May 1865, in noticing my Memoir on 'the Geology of the Country around Oldham, including Manchester and its Suburbs,' makes a strange—I might say hap-hazard—supposition, which it is only due to him, the Geological Survey, and myself, should not be allowed to pass without notice.

In recounting the succession of the formations in the neighbourhood of Manchester, as described in this Memoir, the President says, 'Above them' (the Coal-measures) 'come the Permian Rocks, consisting of Lower Permian Sandstone and Upper Permian Marls; and these again are overlain by the Pebble-beds, or Conglomerate of the New Red Sandstone or Trias.

'No fossils are mentioned as occurring in this Conglomerate; but as it is described as conformable to the underlying Permian, with an inclination of about 10° to the south-west, they (*sic*) may possibly turn out to belong to the Permian series, like the Sandstones described by Sir R. I. Murchison at St. Abb's Head in Cumberland, and then the Trias would be here wanting altogether!'

Now, in the first place, St. Abb's Head is not in Cumberland, nor even in England; and doubtless the President means St. Bee's Head. But, under this supposition, I may state, in the first place, that there is no similarity whatever between the St. Bee's Head Sandstone and the Pebble-beds or Conglomerate in the neighbourhood of Manchester above referred to; and even supposing that it had been conclusively established that the former is of Permian age, it would