

claiming to make known the existence of *Dakosaurus* in England. I trust I shall not appear wanting in courtesy in noticing the paper now, instead of waiting till it is published in full. But as I should then have no more or less to say, I have thought it better to make known the fact that *Dakosaurus* has already been chronicled as an English fossil, so that when Mr. Wood-Mason publishes his paper, he may withdraw his claim to be its first discoverer.

In the Woodwardian Museum occur vertebræ, limb-bones, and teeth of a reptile, for which I had used and still use the name *Dinotosaurus*; and, in a controversial writing on the Potton sands, I had referred teeth (in no way to be distinguished from those in the Kimmeridge Clay) to the same genus. My friend, Mr. Walker, soon after found that these teeth, which he had originally referred to as of crocodilian character, were similar to those in the British Museum, for which Quenstedt had used the name *Dakosaurus*, and in his next paper in the *Annals of Natural History*, 1866, and in the *British Association Reports*, he chronicles the *Dakosaurus* as an English fossil, and acknowledges the assistance of Mr. Henry Woodward in its determination. It also was found in the beds at Wicken (Upware), and duly enumerated in a paper on that locality by Mr. Walker in 1867, in the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, p. 310.

It has been known to me for several years in several species, as characteristic of beds from the base of the Oxford Clay to the sands over the Kimmeridge Clay.

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#### "MIDDLE DRIFT" GRAVEL AT LOPHAM FORD.

SIR,—My friend Mr. Gunn originally pointed out to me the interest attaching to Lopham Ford, as a crucial test on the question of denudation. He now asks, "how, supposing the valley of Lopham to be attributable to either pluvial or fluvial denudation, supposing the watershed to have been ever (? always) on that spot, could the magnificent bed of valley gravel have been deposited on the bank, near the ford and the watershed?"

What will he say, when I reply that there is no such bed of valley gravel there at all? The gravel seen is the "Middle Drift," in which the valley is excavated. I examined it carefully, and came to that decided conclusion. As corroborative evidence I found in it a bed of whitish sand, containing abundance of the same minute organisms from the Chalk, which are so plentiful in the Glacial sand at Firgrove pit near Norwich, and in the railway cutting near Wells. These could hardly be abundant in a river-gravel in a valley not cut through the Chalk.

I need not reiterate that I do not attribute the excavation of this valley to pluvial or fluvial, but to Glacial action. The contorted condition of the superficial beds, or "trail," is extremely marked in the gravel pit on the Suffolk side at Redgrave.—O. FISHER.

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