

the Forest Marble reposes. The quarries have been excavated about 15 feet below the surface, and are composed of 4 feet soil and moved rock; then one bed, 3 to 4 feet thick, of exceedingly hard stone, the surface of which is flat, and on it large oyster-shells; next, three beds of stone; and lastly, a coral bed of about 4 feet in thickness. The coral bed has been disturbed, but in its recent state must have been a beautiful sight, from the number, variety, and beauty of forms and colours. I have already had upwards of 40 species brought me, and such as might supply materials for a complete local coral history. After the depression of the reef below the warm surf of the Oolitic Sea, it was flooded with Oolitic matter, and the corals have to be extracted from the mass, and much work required to clean them, and specimen after specimen examined, before the characteristic form of the species can be determined. I have already *sixteen* species whose growth was by stems, varying from 3 to 60 on an inch square of surface; the calices on which number from 40 to 140 on an inch; *ten* that are superficial corals, and once formed the coats of mollusks, the body of which has been decomposed, and a cavity left, more or less filled with crystals of carbonate of lime; I have *also twelve* corals which formed a solid mass of coral marble, on which life existed only on the surface; and *four* that show a growth in bands of coral marble; one of these retains its purple colour. The reef formed by these corals must have extended many miles; upon it was drifted fruits, as nuts and stems, and after its depression a great variety of univalves, bivalves, saurian vertebræ, and eggs, and teeth, and teeth of fish, and portions of crabs. Although I have known one of the quarries for many years, yet at most I only obtained three or four corals from it; but now that I depend on workmen who break up the bed, it is impossible to say how many more new species may be brought to me.

THOS. C. BROWN.

FURTHER BARTON, CIRENCESTER,
6th January, 1873.

THE OLDEST KNOWN BRITISH TRIGONIA.¹

SIR,—Having read some time ago, Mr. Ralph Tate's notice about the oldest known species of *Trigonia*, in the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for July last (see p. 306), and the reference to a specimen from Marske (not *Maroke*, as there printed in error), in the York Museum, I desire to say that the latter is not from the Marlstone at all, but is an undoubted Inferior Oolite Fossil, the matrix being in all respects similar lithologically to the Dogger of the Peak, near Scarborough.

This leads me to doubt the whole affair, and to contend for the ancestral honour so long awarded to *Trigonia literata* (or *littorata*?) of the Upper Lias.

JOHN LECKENBY.

SCARBOROUGH, January 18, 1872.

PRINCIPAL DAWSON AND OTHERS ON MORAINES.

SIR,—As the reviewer of Dr. Dawson's *Post-Pliocene Geology of Canada* in your January Number scarcely did justice to the author on some points, you would oblige by finding space for a few remarks.

¹ This letter was accidentally omitted last month.—EDIT. GEOL. MAG.