

THE DISCOVERY OF UPPER SILURIAN ROCKS UNDER THE CHALK
OF HERTFORDSHIRE.

SIR,—Allow me to call attention to the fact that the discovery of the Upper Silurian Rocks in Hertfordshire under the Upper Cretaceous—an account of which has been given by Mr. Etheridge, F.R.S., in *The Times*¹—corroborates the views I stated as far back as 1861, in the second edition of 'The Coal-fields of Great Britain,' and again in the third edition of 1873. The little ideal section, by which I intended to show the structure of the central and eastern counties, represents (p. 475) the "Silurian and Cambrian" rocks as underlying the Cretaceous in the part of the country corresponding to Hertfordshire. This ought to convince sceptics that geologists *can* see deeper than other men into a millstone.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF IRELAND,
HUME STREET, DUBLIN.

EDWARD HULL.

OBITUARY.

JOSEPH WILSON LOWRY, F.R.G.S.

BORN OCTOBER 7, 1803. DIED JUNE 15, 1879.

DEATH has just erased another well-known name from the roll of workers on the Geological Survey of Great Britain—that of J. W. Lowry, the eminent engraver, whose maps, sections and plates of fossils form so interesting a part of the records of this important branch of the scientific public service.

Joseph Wilson Lowry was the only son of Wilson Lowry, F.R.S., and Rebecca Lowry, well known as a mineralogist some seventy years ago. His father was the leading architectural and mechanical engraver of his time, and he trained up his son to follow his own pursuits. From his early youth his father's house was the resort of men of high intellectual culture, and his mother's pursuits leading her also to associate with the scientific men of the day, what wonder that young Lowry early imbibed his parents' tastes, and became an ardent lover of all Natural History studies and pursuits, an accomplished draughtsman, and a well-informed scientific man.

His first practical effort was directed to the construction of a model in plaster of the Isle of Wight, geologically coloured, and divided transversely so as to give a section (also geologically coloured) through the centre of the island.

His pursuit of Natural Science led him early in life to become acquainted with John Phillips, at that time Keeper of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society's Museum in York, and later on, when Assistant-General-Secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and when associated with De la Beche on the Geological Survey, or when Professor of Geology in Oxford until his death, Prof. Phillips remained the attached friend of J. W. Lowry.

¹ See also *Geol. Mag.* 1879, for June, pp. 286—289, with a complete list of the fossils determined.

Lowry's first important work, as an engraver, was the execution of the plates for the *Encyclopædia Metropolitana*. He also executed for Sir John Rennie a series of plates of London Bridge. For many years Mr. Lowry prepared all the engravings for Scott Russell illustrative of wave-lines and the contours of Vessels. He also designed and executed numerous maps and charts for the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge; the Atlas of Maps published by the *Dispatch* newspaper—the first really cheap and good atlas ever produced.

The plates illustrating Phillips's *Geology of Yorkshire*, Weale's *Scientific Manuals*, and many other educational and scientific works, were engraved by Mr. Lowry. We are indebted to Mr. Lowry for the excellent series of *Natural History Charts of British Fossils Stratigraphically arranged*; *British Tertiary Fossils*; *Recent and Fossil Crustacea*, by J. W. Salter and Dr. H. Woodward, etc., etc.

Hundreds of plates of fossils exquisitely engraved, and maps and sections too numerous to recount, published for the Geological Survey of Great Britain, amply testify to Mr. Lowry's rare ability as a scientific engraver. Even the familiar card-maps of each town visited year after year by the British Association were invented and produced by Mr. Lowry's skill and ingenuity.

But the days of engraving seem drawing to a close (at least so far as *printing* from engraved plates is concerned), but the beautiful plates prepared by Mr. Lowry cannot well be surpassed by modern lithography save in cheapness. His *Geological and Natural History Charts*, produced at great personal expense and labour, are still the best of their kind extant, and continue greatly in demand.

Much as Mr. Lowry's work was valued by scientific men, his amiability of disposition and his modesty won for him even higher esteem among his friends. Many who knew him personally will recall his readiness on all occasions, even at great personal sacrifices, to help those who needed his assistance. His freshness of heart and kindness to the young were marked features in his character, and endeared him to all.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRAR TO THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES.—MR. F. W. RUDLER, F.G.S., who, from 1861 to 1876, held the office of Assistant Curator, under Mr. Trenham Reeks, to the Museum of Practical Geology, in Jermyn Street, and subsequently was appointed to the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth, has been duly appointed to succeed Mr. Trenham Reeks as Registrar of the Royal School of Mines and Curator to the Museum of Practical Geology. This appointment will afford great satisfaction to a large circle of scientific friends, by whom Mr. Rudler has long been known and highly esteemed.