

and there for a few inches by the surface of a fossil; but this, of course, is a distinct thing from regular cleavage affecting a large area of rock. In the latter case a coincidence between cleavage and the lie of a fossil could be but accidental, but that which is accidental may be of not unfrequent occurrence.

W. DOWNES.

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FOSSILS IN HIGHLY CONTORTED AND CLEAVED SLATES  
AND FLAGS.

SIR,—For many years the greatly cleaved and contorted Menevian strata of St. David's in South Wales, and of Dolgelly in North Wales, were deemed *wholly unfossiliferous*. At length by piecing together the slates and *looking at the bedding ends* of a number of them placed together in their *natural* position, Messrs. Salter and Hicks were fortunate in discovering a large number of fossils, revealing an entirely new fauna. Many of these fossils, which I remember to have seen, collected by the late Mr. Thos. Belt, F.G.S., and by Mr. John Plant, F.G.S., at Dolgelly; and by Messrs. Salter and Hicks at St. David's; reminded me of nothing so much as a fashion, which was greatly in vogue among elegant triflers and amateur painters, 40 to 50 years ago; of painting portraits and landscapes on the *edges* of books (often Bibles<sup>1</sup> were curiously enough chosen for this purpose). The single leaves themselves of course disclosed no evidence, but by pressing the book very slightly *obliquely* at the edges, a picture was at once revealed to the admiring gaze. The fossils may similarly be said to be, the pieced-together pages of old Cambrian records, cleaved into *blank leaves* by Time, but upon whose frayed and time-worn *edges* may still be deciphered a chapter in the life-history of our earth.

F. G. S.

<sup>1</sup> A Reverend Divine, who admired and loved the Queen greatly (as of course we all do), being a man of leisure and of a whimsical taste in art, painted *yearly* a very pleasing landscape, or other subject, upon the front edge of a handsome gilt 4to. Bible bound in Russia or Morocco, and sent it to the Queen on her birthday. These volumes with pictured edges, which extend over very many years of the early life of Her Majesty, are preserved in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle.

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MISCELLANEOUS. — M. Delesse has published a useful agronomic map of the *Department of the Seine and Marne* (*Extrait du Bulletin des Sci.*, December, 1879: Paris, Jules Tremblay, 1880), which comprises the natural region of the *Brie*. In the above notice he has given some details respecting the mode of preparation and the principal results derived therefrom, the persual of which may be useful to those engaged in similar work. The map enables us to compare the revenue derived from the arable lands, the meadows, forests, vineyards, and shows how the fertility of the soil varies throughout the department, and also affords the means of appreciating the relation which exists between the physical and chemical characters of the vegetable soil and the geological structure of the district. It gives also the composition of the vegetable soil, which is further illustrated by two reduced maps appended to this short notice, one showing the lands with and without calcareous matter; the other indicating by different tints and curved lines the proportion of sandy residue corresponding to 20, 40, 60 and 80 per cent. in the soil.

J. M.

ERRATUM.—In Mr. W. H. Dalton's letter on "Post-Glacial," in July No., p. 333, line 11 from foot, for "Further deposits," read "Further, these deposits."