

ARCHAEOPTERYX MACRURUS (Owen).

In the National Collection, British Museum.

S. J. Mackie del.

THE GEOLOGIST;

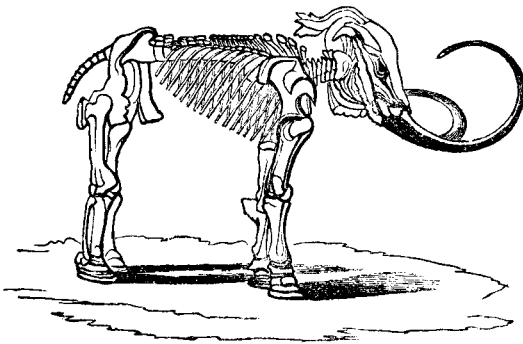
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OF

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EDITED BY S. J. MACKIE, F.G.S., F.S.A.



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PREFACE.

AGAIN the pleasant task recurs of thanking my friends for their encouragement and assistance; my only regret being, that the number of contributors to thank is less than heretofore. Those who have lightened by their contributions the labour which otherwise would have devolved on myself, have, during the past year, done me real service.

The papers and letters by my friends Mr. Du Noyer, the Rev. Hugh Mitchell, the Rev. Gilbert M. Smith, Mr. Meyer, of Guildford, Mr. Blake, Mr. James Powrie, Mr. Davies, the Rev. W. S. Symonds, Professor Rupert Jones, Mr. Simons, Professor W. King, Mr. Lechmere Guppy, Mr. T. Grindley, Dr. Leslie, Mr. J. D. Sainter, Mr. James Plant, of Leicester, Mr. S. R. Pattison, Professor Ansted, Rev. O. Fisher, Mr. E. R. Lankester, Mr. Binney, of Manchester, Count Marschall, Mr. S. P. Woodward, Mr. H. C. Sorby, Dr. Blackmore, Mrs. Strickland, Lieut.-Colonel Nicolls, Mr. Harrison, of Melbourne, and Mr. Drake, are especially worthy of my best acknowledgments. The names of some respected former contributors are absent from this list, but the friendship between them and myself continuing unbroken, welcome communications from them will most likely grace our future volumes. For my own part, the pressure of many important labours prevents such entire devotion to geology as I should like to give; but as far as my power permits,

my best efforts will always be freely devoted to the interest of the readers and subscribers to this Magazine, from whom, so far as they are personally known to me, I continue to receive encouragement and support.

I would add here an earnest appeal to country collectors and provincial investigators to send notes of their doings and of the occurrences in their respective districts: not necessarily for publication, but to put me in possession of the means of securing a most valuable amount of information for the advance of science, which now is never brought before the world, and which passes resultlessly away into oblivion. When recently at Tynemouth, I observed extensive sinkings into an unusually interesting mass of boulder-drift, in the construction of a new powder magazine for the fort on the cliff within the fine old priory walls. The sections presented were in both north-and-south and east-and-west directions, the drifted materials consisting variously of sand, clay, and gravel, all containing flints and boulders of limestone, and other rocks; some, scratched and scored. The gravels commingled with runs of sand and intercalations of clay, presenting, notwithstanding their intricacy of commingling, evidences of the direction of drifting, not shown in the boulder-clay exposed along the Durham coast. My stay there was extremely limited, yet, although much engaged upon other matters, I found time to make some very rough sketches in my note-book, and to bring away my pockets full of small specimens of as many different boulders as I could. Still, what I did was not sufficient to enable me to give such an account of this remarkable cutting as it deserves; and as no trace of its existence is, as far as I am aware, shown on the face of the cliff (except, it may be, obscurely on the river side, as far as I could judge from a casual look while walking along the new jetty), there is, perhaps, little chance of such an opportunity for its examination occurring again. If, however, I had been acquainted with any geologist resident in the place, or had any one

there communicated intelligence to me, I should have had the opportunity of directing operations, although at a distance, and without visiting the spot,—just as, through Mr. Elliot's kind and early information, I was enabled to suggest the best manner of examining the Heathery Burn Cave, and of collecting any relics that might be met with in it. Of the mammoth bones at Leicester Mr. Drake kindly gave me immediate information. Of many other similar discoveries and occurrences I have also had early notice; but my great desire is to get still more,—indeed, as much as possible,—of such knowledge. Every one who knows me will know that if the senders wish the information given not to be used, they have only to tell me so, and their desires will be properly respected. The value of reporting events to some special geologist, is very great, and there can be no better course than to supply such intelligence to the Editor of this Magazine, which is intended especially to record the events of the passing time. I am also pleased to have these pages made use of, as has been done by Dr. Falconer in the concluding number of this volume, as a medium of making known requirements of particular material for valuable labours in progress.

I am also gratified at the free criticism of my own articles, especially when the criticisms are as valuable as those of Mr. Scrope on my earthquake paper. In the speculations I have made, and in those I shall hereafter make, I am not actuated by any desire of innovation, but wish rather to develop discussions of many points accepted as theories, often only because they are familiar doctrines, and as often on too slight grounds.

In concluding this Preface to my sixth volume, I have only again to express my continued good wishes to my many friends.

S. J. MACKIE.

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