

Mr. Laidlay presented a collection of shells to the British Museum, and was also a donor of coins and other objects of archaeological interest to the Nation. He died March 8th, 1885, and leaves a family of five sons and two daughters.

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#### PROFESSOR RUDOLF WILHELM DUNKER.

We regret to record the loss of this veteran German geologist, who died, after a brief illness, on March 13th, 1885, at Marburg, Hesse Cassel.

Wilhelm Dunker was born at Eschwege, on 21st February, 1809, and after the usual studies at the Gymnasia of Cassel and Rinteln, he entered upon a course of practical mining at Oberkirchen, etc. His first scientific work was the investigation of the Wealden formation, a task not before attempted in North Germany. Having passed his examination in practical mining, he entered the University of Göttingen in 1830, where he studied under Blumenbach and other famous professors.

Having completed his education, he returned to Oberkirchen in 1837, and resumed his researches in the Wealden, etc. (see vol. i. *Studien Göttingischen Vereins* S. 291 ff.). In 1838 he graduated in Jena. In 1839 he accepted the lectureship of Mineralogy and Geology in the Polytechnic School of Cassel. In April, 1840, Prof. Dunker was married to his cousin, Elise Sommer. At Cassel he prepared his Wealden Memoir for publication (drawing the plates with his own hands), and being assisted by Hermann von Meyer, who described the Reptilian remains. Whilst engaged on this work he conceived the idea of issuing a palæontological journal, which he soon after commenced with H. von Meyer (known as the *Palæontographica*), Theodor Fischer of Cassel having undertaken its publication. This work has now been in constant issue for 35 years, and contains a vast number of valuable memoirs.

In 1854 Dunker was chosen Professor and Director of the Mineralogical Institute in Marburg, and in 1880 he was elected to the Chair of Mineralogy in that University, where he resided until his death. He was the author of about 70 memoirs, chiefly upon the Mollusca, of which also he possessed a fine collection. He died at the age of seventy-six years, universally regretted by all his friends and fellow-professors.

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#### MISCELLANEOUS.

DR. FRANZ RITTER VON HAUER, Director of the Geological Survey of Austria, with which he has been connected since its earliest institution, has been appointed by the Emperor of Austria to the post of Intendant of the Imperial Natural History Museum of Vienna, lately vacant by the death of Dr. Ferdinand von Hochstetter. The colleagues of Dr. von Hauer presented him with a sympathetic address of regret at his quitting the Survey and of congratulation on his appointment, and they have resolved to have a portrait of him painted by a distinguished artist, which is to be placed in the Museum of the Survey at Vienna.