

**JOHN J. BIGSBY, M.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., F.R.G.S.**

BORN AUG. 14TH, 1792; DIED FEB. 10TH, 1881.

Dr. J. J. BIGSBY was the son of J. Bigsby, Esq., M.D., Edinburgh. He was born at Nottingham, on the 14th August, 1792, and early followed the career of his father by entering the Medical Profession, and shortly after taking his degree, he was appointed about 1818 as Medical Officer to a German Rifle Regiment in the English Service and ordered to Canada. Soon after his arrival he was sent by the Governor to Hawkesbury Settlement, where there had been an outbreak of typhus fever. In the following year the more agreeable task was assigned to him of travelling through Upper Canada to report upon its Geology. A part of the collections he then made are still preserved in the British Museum, not the least interesting of which are the curious siphuncles of *Huronia Bigsbyi*, from Drummond's Island, Lake Huron. About the year 1822 he was appointed British Secretary and Medical Officer to the Canadian Boundary Commission. In 1823 he was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London, to whose Transactions he had already been a contributor.

Dr. Bigsby returned to England about 1827, and commenced to practise as a medical man at Newark. In 1846 he came to reside in the metropolis, and from that date identified himself with most of the scientific societies in London. In 1850 he published the account of his experience of life and travel in North America, under the title of "Shoe and Canoe."

His first scientific paper appeared in Silliman's American Journal in 1820, and he contributed altogether about twenty-seven papers to learned societies in London and elsewhere. His most important scientific work appeared in 1868, entitled "Thesaurus Siluricus," being a list of all the fossils which occur in the Silurian formation throughout the world. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in the following year, and was awarded the Murchison Medal in 1874 by the Council of the Geological Society.

In 1878 he published his second catalogue, entitled "Thesaurus Devonico-Carboniferus," and at the time of his death had far advanced towards the completion of his third volume, the "Thesaurus Permianus."

In 1876 he requested the Geological Society to accept, in trust, a sum of money to provide a medal to be called the "Bigsby Medal," and to be awarded biennially to some geologist not more than forty-five years of age of any nationality; Prof. Marsh, Prof. Cope, and Dr. Barrois having been up to this time the three recipients. Dr. Bigsby died at his residence, 89, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, at the good old age of 89 years.

**PROFESSOR JAMES TENNANT, F.G.S., F.C.S.,**

BORN 1808; DIED FEBRUARY 23RD, 1881.

DURING the earlier part of the present century the science of Mineralogy had no more claim to be considered one of the exact sciences than has Geology at the present day. To be able to