

only prepared to affirm that the Huronian rocks on the Lake of the Woods are in great part volcanic, but putting forward the theory that the Huronian formation is largely composed of metamorphosed contemporaneous igneous matter. This is the view to which I was myself led by my study of these rocks in the field, and I published this opinion in a paper on the Geology of the North Shore of Lake Superior some years ago (*Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* vol. xxix.). In this paper I expressed the opinion that the great masses of "talcose" and "chloritic" slates which, together with interbedded traps, make up the greater part of the Huronian formation between Lake Superior and Lake Shabendowan, are "truly of the nature of bedded felspathic ashes;" and I also drew attention to the singular resemblance which they present to the Borrowdale series, or Green Slates and Porphyries, of the North of England. It affords me, therefore, much pleasure to find that these views, at that time quite unsupported, should have been corroborated by the wide opportunities for observation and the extended experience of Mr. Dawson.

UNITED COLLEGE, ST. ANDREWS,  
July 7th, 1877.

H. ALLEYNE NICHOLSON.

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OBITUARY.

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WILLIAM HARRIS, ESQ., F.G.S.

BORN 1797. DIED 1877.

WITH regret we announce the death of WILLIAM HARRIS, Esq., F.G.S., on the 13th May, aged 80, at Charing, in Kent, where he had resided for many years. He was greatly esteemed by a large circle of friends for his genial disposition and real philanthropy; and he obtained deserved reputation for his untiring researches among the fossils of the Chalk, and into the geological history and structure of the country around him. He was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London in 1839. After a long life of useful activity his health failed him eight or nine years ago, and he gradually lost his power of moving about and attending to business, as well as his interest in those scientific pursuits which were formerly his pleasure. He had for many years assiduously collected the organic remains found in the Chalk-pits of the neighbouring hills, especially the Sponges and Fishes. Of the former he communicated many to Mr. J. Toulmin Smith, who figured and described the *Ventriculidæ* of the Chalk in 1848. Of the Fishes he collected and prepared a great many, but they were never classified. The enormous numbers of *Entomostraca*, *Polyzoa*, and *Foraminifera*, together with small Brachiopods, Serpulæ, fragments of Corals, Encrinites, etc., which Mr. Harris obtained, by careful and patient search, from the Chalk and Chalk-marl, were freely and liberally distributed to his friends, and to others interested in palæontology. Many a one has been instigated to take up geological studies, with microscope at home and hammer abroad, after participating in some of these minute organic treasures from "the Charing Detritus," as the disintegrated Chalk-marl of the locality was termed by our lamented friend.

Prof. W. C. Williamson, in 1847, figured and described some of the small fossils from Charing in his comprehensive and far-seeing memoir "On some of the microscopical objects found in the Levant, and other deposits; with remarks on the mode of formation of calcareous and siliceous rocks," *Mem. Manchester Lit. Phil. Soc.*, vol. viii. See also the supplemental "Corrections of the Nomenclature of the Objects," etc., *op. cit.*, third series, vol. v. 1872. Dr. Mantell also noticed the excellent results of Mr. Harris's labours on the "Chalk-detritus" and its Animalcules in the sixth edition of his "Wonders of Geology," 1848, and in his "Medals of Creation," 1854, etc.

The Entomostraca from the same source were the incentive, and supplied the chief material for the "Monograph of the Entomostraca of the Cretaceous Formation of England," *Palæontogr. Soc.*, 1849; and for its revision in the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, Vol. VII., No. 2, February, 1870. Mr. Harris's collection of similar fossils from the Gault of Kent added largely to the completion of that Monograph.

Of the Foraminifera and other fossils thus collected at and near Charing, many increased the lists in the second edition of Prof. Morris's "Catalogue of British Fossils," 1854, and are duly acknowledged in the preface. Some small Brachiopods were worthy of Mr. Davidson's attention and description; and other rare fossils in Mr. Harris's collection are figured in Dixon's *Geology of Sussex*, etc.

Mr. Harris devoted much of his leisure to mapping the areas of the Cretaceous strata about Charing on the One-inch Ordnance Map; and the Geological Surveyors were pleased to avail themselves of his work as far as they could. In company with the writer, in 1854, he found the fossiliferous specimens of Tertiary ironstone in sandpipes of the Chalk near Lenham, which added so much to our knowledge of the "Kentish Crag," when studied by Messrs. Prestwich and Searles Wood (*Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. xiv. p. 325, and p. 333). Mr. Harris also worked indefatigably in tracing the extent of this fossiliferous ironstone in his immediate neighbourhood; and he had diggings made, at considerable expense, on the hill above Charing to the depth of about 30 feet. Mr. Prestwich gives an account of these in his paper above referred to.

Thus, as one of the many quiet workers in rural districts, carefully observing nature, and looking with knowledge on antiquities, fossils, and all traces of the past, Mr. Harris took pleasure both in collecting and in communicating everything of use and interest that could be learnt within his field of observation. T. R. J.

JOHN LECKENBY, ESQ., J.P., F.G.S.

BORN 1814. DIED 1877.

It is with no ordinary feelings of regret that we record the loss of an excellent Yorkshire geologist, whose death leaves a sad blank in our circle of scientific friends. Mr. Leckenby was a native of Ripon; he came to reside at Scarborough upon his appointment to the York City and County Bank in 1837, then recently established. From that latter date the direction of his mind towards the cultiva-