EXCURSION TO GRAYS, ESSEX.—MAY 16TH, 1874.

Director—HENRY WALKER, Esq., F.G.S.*(Report by Mr. WALKER.)*

A large party left the Fenchurch-street Station, to visit the exposures of the Mammalian Beds of the Lower Thames Valley, and sections of the Upper Chalk, at Grays. The pits at Little Thurrock, so celebrated for their Pleistocene fauna, were first visited. Here the picturesque and typical section of false-bedded sands, eighteen feet in thickness, was found well displayed, and in the mottled clays at the base of the section shells of *Cyrena* were found sparsely distributed. The history of the excavation, and a list of the fauna having been given by the Director, the company proceeded to the higher ground to survey the physical aspects of the district. The flat delta-like tract of the Lower Thames Valley, the great "receiving drain" of the hydrographical basin, to use the words of Professor Phillips, with no containing sides comparable to those which, seen near Oxford, enclose the upper basin with great natural ramparts, was well seen from the spot. The company then proceeded to the chalk-pits at Grays, and spent an instructive hour examining the admirable sections (already described in these pages)* and scattered sarsen stones, and in obtaining the characteristic fossils of the Upper Chalk.

EXCURSION TO NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

MAY 25TH and 26TH, 1874.

Director.—SAMUEL SHARP, Esq., F.S.A., F.G.S.*(Report by WILFRID H. HUDLESTON, Esq., M.A., F.G.S.)*

On meeting the party at Blisworth, Mr. Sharp at once proceeded to give an outline, illustrated by a diagram, of the formations in the district through which he proposed to act as conductor. In order to facilitate an understanding of the sections in the pits and quarries subsequently visited during the two days' excursion, the substance of his remarks explanatory of the geology of the district, is subjoined :—

* "Proceedings of the Geologists' Association," vol. ii., p. 245.