EXCURSION TO GORING.

SATURDAY, 25TH MAY, 1895.

Directors: W. WHITAKER, F.R.S., AND J. H. BLAKE, F.G.S.*(Report by THE DIRECTORS, CHIEFLY J. H. BLAKE.)*

This excursion was arranged to study the Valley of the Thames between Goring and Pangbourne.

The party, numbering about fifty, were met by the directors at the Reading railway station, at 11 a.m., then walked to Caversham Bridge, embarked on the steam-launch *Fashion*, specially engaged for the Association, and proceeded up the river, passing through the beautiful scenery of the Thames Valley, in the neighbourhood of Mapledurham, Pangbourne, etc., to Goring. An old pit, in the wood by Hart's Old Lock, was pointed out as showing the Chalk Rock, which marks the junction between Upper and Middle Chalk.

At Goring, the members disembarked, walked through the village of Streatley, noticing several large sarsens by the roadside, and then ascended the steep incline of Streatley Hill, the latter consisting for the most part of Upper Chalk capped with a small outlier of Reading Beds, and being a prolongation of the Chiltern Hills, seen on the northern side of the river. Arrived near the summit, a magnificent view was obtained, the Thames Valley from this point presenting a very gorge-like appearance; and the party, after their climb, were glad to sit here a while and listen to a dissertation by Mr. Whitaker on the denudation of this part of the Thames Valley.

He remarked that whilst it was commonly said that the escarpment was breached by the valley, it might perhaps be more correct to say that the valley was cut across by the escarpment. The former expression seems to imply that the escarpment is the older of the two, whereas there is much to be said for the view that the valley was first started more or less along the general line of dip by a transverse stream, and that the escarpment was then began by the erosion of lateral, or longitudinal tributaries. The deepening of the valley and the cutting of the escarpment would go on together afterwards.

He also remarked that, whilst on the northern side of the London Basin the main stream, the Thames, was the only one that flowed through the escarpment towards the middle part of the basin, on the southern and shorter side several streams (the Wey, the Mole, the Darent, the Medway, and the Stour) flowed

through. The difference is probably owing to the generally higher dip on the south. It is a question whether the northern streams may ever work their way back through the escarpment and tap the tract beyond.

Messrs. Blake and Leighton also spoke, and a short discussion followed. Then the members resumed their walk, passing through Common Walk on the summit of the hill, and noticing various pebbles of quartz, quartzite, lydian stone, slaty rock, etc., derived from patches of pebbly gravel (called Westleton Shingle by Prof. Prestwich) which occur on this outlier of Reading Beds. On emerging from the wood on the southern side, attention was drawn to a steep-sided valley, forming one of the side-valleys of the Thames, and its origin was discussed.

A return was now made to the launch, and the party proceeded further up the river through Goring and Cleeve Locks, with the object of seeing the "so-called" gorge from another point of view. A short distance beyond the latter lock, the return journey down the river was commenced.

Caversham Bridge was reached at about 7 p.m., where the members dispersed, the London contingent leaving Reading by the 8.15 p.m. train, and reaching Paddington at 9 p.m.

REFERENCES.

Geological Survey Map, Sheet 13.

New one-inch Ordnance Survey Map, Sheets 268 and 254.

1823. BUCKLAND, REV. WILLIAM.—*Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*, Map, pl. 27.

1872. WHITAKER, W.—"The Geology of the London Basin." *Mem. Geol. Survey*, vol. iv.

1890. PRESTWICH, J.—"On the Relation of the Westleton Beds, etc.," Part II. and Part III. *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, vol. xlv.

1895. WHITE, H. J. OSBORNE.—"On the Distribution and Relation of the Westleton and Glacial Gravels, etc." *Proc. Geol. Assoc.*, vol. xiv.