# XXII. Free remarks on the Geological Work of Mr. Greenough 

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XXII. Free Remarks on the Geological Work of Mr. Greenough. By Mr. John Farey, Sen. Mineral Surveyor.

## To Mr. Tilloch.

Sir, - $\mathrm{M}_{\text {R. Greenough, }}$ who was the first President of the Geological Society of London, and now again fills that situation, has at length appeared before the public in the character of an Author: bis Work, entitled, "A Critical Examination of the first Principles of Geology," follows very closely in the steps of that of Dr. Kidd*, in labouring excessively to show, that scarcely any thing of real knowledge yet exists, respecting the composition, the structure, and the past history of the crust of the Earth!!. On scarcely any of the numerous points of Geological Theory or the general Inferences from Geological Facts, which Mr. Greenough's Work brings under review, does he seem able to have made up an opinion, and for want of which, his readers are throughout bewildered, by a mass of contradictory extracts from those Authors (certainly not a few) whom Mr. G. (in imitation of Dr. K.) in a somewhat arbitrary, and sometimes, as it appears to me, in anr unfair manner, selects, as authorities in Geological matters: and too often also, the Author's own remarks are found at variance with each other.

In thus freely stating my opinion on the general character of Mr. G's Work, as appears to me after very carefully and repeatedly perusing it, I by no means wish or intend to deny it the merit, of containing a great many original and useful localObservations, and also several Inferences and Remarks, which had not previously been published, and for performing which service to Geology, no one in England, feels more grateful to Mr. G. than myself: although on the whole, I cannot consider his conduct fair, or his Work as likely to advance, but rather to retard, the march of Geological knowledge.

The subject of Organic Remains, and of Fossil Shells in particular, appearing to me of paramount importance, amongst Geological phænomena, I shall on the present occasion, principally confine my remarks to the manner in which Mr. G. has haudled some of this part of his subject, which is found either incidentally or more formally introduced, at pages $27,34,179$ to 184, 203, $207,215,220$ to 225,227 , and 284 to 304 .

In page 294 Mr . Greenough, in evident allusion to the ques tion which has often been agitated in your pages, viz. how far Mr. $W$. Smith is to be considered as a discoverer of the connec-

[^0]tion now so well proved to exist, between particular Bedls or laminæ of the Strata, and particular Species or varieties of Shells or other Organic Remains, which are found imbedded therein, and as the first who actually used and taught this mode of identifying, mapping and tracing the Strata, remarks as follows: viz. "An opinion has for some time past been entertained in this country, that every Rock has its own Fossils."

Before I proceed to remark on the Extracts, and mention of the Writings of former English Naturalists, which follow in Mr. G's work, and by which he wishes to appear to prove his position above quoted, I will remark on the loose mauner in which the two material parts thereof are defined, that are marked with italiss: leaving thus his proposition open to the showing, as in some of the following extracts is attempted to be done, viz. that each " different stone," that is each mineral species of Stone (without regard to its place in the series of Strata), " yield quite different sorts or species of Shells," and that the supposed relation subsists, between mineral and animal Species, instead of the relation which Mr. Smith and myself contend for, viz. between the successive periods or eras of deposition of the particular Beds, and the particular species or varieties of Animals, which, at or immediately prior thereto, existed in the water, on the bottom of which the Beds in question were formed.

Respecting Mr. G's Extract in page 284, from Dr. Lister's Paper in the Philosophical Transactions, No. 76 (or Lowthorp's Abr. II. 425) it is material to take into consideration, the connection of the same with the passage which immediately precedes it, as follows, viz. In " our'English inland Quarries, 1 am apt to think, there is no such matter as petrifying of Shells in the business: But that these Cockle-like Stones ever were, as they are at present, Lapides sui generis, and never any part of an Animal. It is most certain that our English Quarry-shells (to continue that abusive name) have no parts of a different Texture from the Rock or Quarry where they are taken; that is, that there is no such thing as Shell in these Resemblances of Shells, but that Ironstone Cockles are all Iron-stone : Lime or Marble, all Limestone or Marble; Sparre or Christalline-shells, all Sparre, \&c. and that they were never Part of an Animal. My reason is, that Quaries of different Stone yield us quite different sorts of Species of Shell," (not Shells) and so on, nearly as in the 9 following lines of Mr. Greenough's Extract, at top of page 285; which-thus prefaced, as in literary justice they ought to have been, will not I think be judged by impartial persons, to amount to much, against Mr. Smith's claim, as above stated, and in your 51 st vol. p. 177.

The next paragraph in Mr. Greenough's Work, still alluding to Dr. Lister, is as follows, viz. "The sameWriter followed the course
of the Chalk-marl over an extensive tract of country, by mere attention to its Fossils,"' but for reasons best known to himself, Mr. G. omits here, the reference, to the work to which he alludes, in making this important assertion. After reading through all Dr. Lister's Papers in the Phil.Trans., without discovering any such thing, I was induced to look into his Work entitled " Historiæ Animalium Anglix," wherein, at p .228 , at the end of the description of the small Belemnite, engraven in his 32d titleor figure, are these words, viz. "Locus.' Hunc lapidem plurimis in locis apud nos quàm copiosissimè inveni: at perpetuo in terrâ rubrâ ferreâ, sive ea mollior gleba, sive saxea sit. In all the Cliffs, as you ascend the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wooldes for above 100 miles in compas : as at Spiton, Lawnshorough, Castour,'Tedford, Calkwell:" which doubtless is the passage, to which Mr. G. alludes, and the first part of which, a learned naturalist of my acquaintance*, renders thus, viz. "This stone is found very abundantly in many places amongst us, in a red ferruginous Earth, either in softer or in more stony masses. In all the Cliffs," \&c. as above.

On which, I beg to ask Mr. Greenough, how he can make out, that the red ferruginous Earth, here alluded to by Dr. Lister, at Specton Cliff, Londsborough, Caistor, Cawkwell, and 'Tetford (as the places are now called), is the whitish, or blueish or greenishgray "Chalk-Marl" " $\dagger$, rather than the " Brick-earth "" or micaceous blue Marl (exposed and oxidated) p. 13, of Smith's "Strata Identified," wherein such small Belemnites, are found, and described. And next, I will take the liberty of saying, that Dr. Lister does not appear to me, either to have accomplished, or to have had in view, the tracing or following of any particular Stratum, by means of these small Belemnites, by reason that he never mentions the same, or speaks of its relation to the Chalk Strata near adjacent and above it in the Series; but intended merely to explain more particularly, by the mention of Cliffs at the edge of the Wold Hills, the situalions in which he had found these Belemnites. It is however, a singular circumstance, that this passage, and this only, should be given in English, in Dr. Lister's Latin

[^1]Work, and further, that it should have been marked by italics!; and in order to show my readiness, to the giving of every degree of publicity to what Dr. Lister did, with regard to Fossil Shells, I have been at the pains to make out, as I hope, with tolerable certainty, what are the Situations of all the Places, in modern Maps, to which Dr. Lister refers in this work; and by means of Smith's Map, joined with my own knowledge of the local situations and extents of the several Strata, to assign each Shell its place, in a Stratigraphical System: to which, I have added references to Mr. Sowerby's Mineral Conchology, wherever he appears to have described the same species of Fossil Shell, and I now send you the same, and shall be glad to see it inserted, following this, in your Philosophical Magazine.

Mr. Greenough's next passage, in page 285, is as follows, viz. " Mr. Strange traced the Gryphus from the lower part of Monmouthshire and Purton Passage, through Gloucestershire, Worcesterhire, Warwickshire, and Leicestershire, occupying in these commties, as in Northamptonshire, the lower parts under the hills,"" and by a Note on this passage, he refers to the "Archæologia," vol. vi. p. 36. I have from the volume last mentioner, carefully extracted all which Mr. Strange says, on the subject of Organic Remains, and have sent the same herewith, in hopes that it may be recorded in your Work, following my abstract of Mr. Lister's Work, above mentioned. Mr, Greenough, besides having introduced here, the mention of Northamptonshire, which Mr. Strange does not mention (and wherein there is no part of the range of the Lias Gryphites, Gryphæa incurva a, or G. obliquata, Min. Conch. t. 112), he omits Mr. Strange's mention of the Gravel, in which he found some, and perhaps several of his Gryphites; and, almost without doubt, these Gravel Gryphites belonged to some of the higher stratigraphical localities of this genus of Shells, which are mentioned, P.M. liii. p. 124, or to others, and not to the Lias Strata, whereon Mr. Strange's description sets out, in Glamorgan and Monmouth Shires: and hence I think it fair to conclude, that Mr. Strange, had not traced any Strata through distant places, "by mere attention to their Fossils."

Mr . Greenough's two following quotations, from the Journal de Physique, seem little to the purpose in question, because, appearing to me merely having in view, the supposed relation between mineral and animal Species, as before mentioned.

The Rev. A. Catcot, in page 161 of his "Treatise on the Deluge," having spoken of thick and massive Rocks, st:bjoins a Note which begins as follows, viz. A thick Rock or " single Stratum, is divided into a great number of lesser Strata or small Layers, which will be easily distinguishable from each other, either by their colour, depth, thickness, or more remarkably by their contents, or the Fossil bodies they contain, one layer abounding with one species
of Shells, another with a different," $\& c$., as Mr. Greenough has the remainder of the passage, in p. 286; but who, by omitting this necessary introduction to his Extract, has contrived to keep it out of view of his Reader, that Mr. Catcot, instead of speaking of the means of identifying the same Stratum or Bed in a different and distant part of its course (which is the essence of Mr . Smith's claim on this head) was merely spea king of the means of separating a thick Rock, in some one place. into its component Strata or Bets.
The extract from the last scientific Letter or Paper which the late Mr. William Martin of Macclesfield wrote, before his death, (and which his friends afterwards sent to be inserted in your Magazine, vol. xxxix. p. 81) has very unfairly towards Mr. Smith, (before he had been mentioned, except on a different account in p. 150 , as I shall further mention) been introduced, without the mention of the circumstance, which Mr.Martin candidly acknowledges, viz. of his having omitted to mention in his printed Work, the comnection of each species of Shell that he had described, with the particular Stratum imbedding the same; Mr. G. well knowing, that Mr. Martin had been led to write the passage which he has transferred to his Book, in consequence of a particular communication, made by we to Mr. Martin, of Mr. Smith's discoveries, and of my applications of the same, to the Strata and places, from whence Mr. M's Specimens had been collected: after the last of his Works, except thisLetter, had been printed off : see P.M. vol. liii. p. 113.
I come now to the short mention which Mr. G. has allowed himself to make of Mr. Smith, on the subject of Fossil Shells, in p. 257 ; where, apparently for no other reason than to avoid telling the world, that $M r$. Smith has pullished (besides the quarto Memoir explaining his Map) the greater part of two express works on Fossil Shells (besides having deposited hes original Specimens in the British Museum, which had been almost entirely collected in the last century)-l say, for avoiding saying so much, Mr. G. has descended so far as to say, that Mr. Smith's specification of " a variety of Fossils, by which the Strata of Enyland may (in his opinion) be identified," was made, "in a table attached to his Geological Map."! !

I have already alluded, to the only other instance throughout Mr. G's Work, wherein Mr. Smith is mentioned, which relates, to his discovery, that the known Alluwia, that is, such water-moved masses of Strata, as, by containing known species of Organic Remains (and being frequently also, of a known substance) which can be matched to the particular Strata, from whence they were torn, have all (with the exception of some thin and light masses) leen maved in one direction, that is, from the SE to the NW, or nearly so: and here again, Mr. G., as it appears to me, only
for the propose of avoiding mentioning Mr. Smith's "Strata Identified" (p. ii) or his "Stratigraphical System" (p.ix), professes, not to know Mr. Smith's reasons, for the opinion which he ascribes to him: notwithstanding, that I have myself, years ago, explained those reasons to him, and have repeatedly published the same in your Work, with confirmatory testimony from my own experience: see vol. xxxv. p. 135, vol. xlii. p. 253 , vol. xliii. p. 125 Note, \&c.

One thing has considerably surprised me, and all others with whom I have conversed, who had read Mr. Greenough's Book, viz. that not a word or allusion is found therein, to the Map ("begun and altogether made on Wernerian principles," see p. 337 of your xlvth volume, and vol. lii. pp. 184 and 185 Note), unfounded reports concerning which Geognostic Map, have so long, and so unjustly been played off, against the reputation and sale of Mr. Smith's original Map of the Strata.

I shall have already trespassed too much on your pages, to allow me to mention herein, more than one thing in Mr. G's Book which concerns myself, and that is, to point out, that the words marked with inverted commas in p. 156, and positively ascribed to Mr. Hutchinson, are not his words!, but my words, taken from page 123 (and its Note) of my Derbyshire Report: and further, that Mr. Greenough well knows, that in 1806, I made the important discovery (in Surrey and Sussex, regarding the Denudation of the Weald District) which is here alluded to, and gave him, soon after, a manuscript Section of the Country between London and Brighton, for explaining'the same (P.M. vol. xliii. p.120); and that my verification and extension of the same discovery, throughout the County and vicinity of Derby, was made, and the same published in Dr. Rees's Cyclopredia, and in my Report, two years before the time, that either he or myself heard, of the discovery or of the Work of Mr. Hutchinson, or, that of Mr. Catcot, which were brought from Oxford (as I understood) in order to dispute my claims to the first discovery of Denudation, and were lent to me by Mr. Greenough, in June 1813. Although until now, as Mr. G. has been silent to the discoveries of Mr. Hutchinson (who at the beginning of the 18 th century was employed by Dr. Woodward in forming his Museum, see Dr. Rees's Cyclopcedia), and those of his pupil the Rev. A. Catcot, I have let slip no opportunity, of referring to their Works, and doing my endeavours, towards making them more generally known (see vol. xliii. p. 189, vol. xlii. p. 255, \&c.); and, in case it would meet your approbation, to insert the same, I would send you the Extracts, which I made from these Authors' Works, in 1813, of all the Geological passages that they contain, which appeared to me new, or im. portant.

I am, your obedient servant,
John Farey Sen.

Londsborough. Specton, Cliff.
Portland Rock, or Aylesbury, \&c. Limestone.

of Fossil Shells, described ly Dr. Lister.
Elliker.
Filleỳ-Bridge.
\}f. 43 (Plott, t. 4, f. 19) Ostracites maximus, rugosus \&c. (var. $\alpha$ ) pp. 236, and 21 app.

Thornton. f. 48 (Plott, t. 4, f. 10, 12 and 13 ?) Pectinites rarioribus striis, p. 242. Clunch Clay, with its Clunch or Dogger beds. Alum-Shale, with Cement Balls, Jet, \&c.

Brise-Norton. \}f. 41 (Plott, t. 7, f. 3) Bucardites costis donatus, p. 235. Brise-Norton.
North-Leigh. Tees River. Wansford.

* This shell somewhat resembles Pecten rigidus differently named, as belonging to another stratum.
lott, t. 6, f. 11) Cochleomorphites sex spirarum, (var. $\beta$ ) p. 218.
Plott, t. 8, f. 9) Echinites parvulus striis, $\& c$. p. 220. Plott, t. 8, f. 9) Echinites parvulus striis, \&c. p. 220. f. 24 (Plott t 5 f 6) Echinites ovarius parvus, p. 222.
of Fossil Shells, described ly Dr. Lister.


3rd Coal Shale, Slate clay, Blae, Plate.
 Ditto. ........f. 49, Pectinites membranaceus, \&c. p. 243.

1st Derbyshire-Peak Limestone, or Upper Mountain Limestone.
\&c. p. 212. 241

## [ 139 ]

An Extract of all such Matters concerning Fossil Shells and Plants, as are mentioned in the Remarks of John Strange, Esq. read to the Society of Antiquaries, 28 Jan. 1779, and printed in the "Archeoologia." Vol. vi. pp. 35 to 38.
After describing four different Views, which are engraven, of the promontory (of whitish Limestone) called Wormshead, running out W from the village of Rosilly, in Glamorganshire, Mr. Strange thus proceeds, (in p. 36,) viz. "Wormshead point also merits the attention of naturalists, for the extraneous and marine fossil bodies it contains, especially Entrochi, which remaining often prominent above the surface of the Limestoue, on account of their resisting better the action of the air, make a singular appearance, and have been supposed to be the hardened excrement of sea Gulls."
"The phytolypolithi, or fossil impressions of plants, in the Strata about the coal-mines, are very curious. They are chiefly Filices; not of our common indigenous species, but exotics; and I remarked several that seemed to correspond exactly with some of the American Filices figured by Plumier in his celebrated Herbal.
(p.37.) "I have since seen much the same impressions in the Strataof the coal-mines of St. Chaumont, in the province of Lionoise, in France : the origin of which, has been so very ably discussed by the late learned naturalist Monsieur de Jussieu $\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text { Mem. de }\end{array}\right.$ $l^{\prime}$ Acad. 1718.) I also observed similar impressions in the coal Strata near Rive de Giez, in the same neighbourhood. Other impressions, nearly of the same kind, are likewice observable in the ironstone of Glamorganshire: particularly between Breton Ferry and Neath : and which appeared to me more curious than any I had ever seen before, or, indeed, since. A recent author, Mr. Beuth (Julix est montem \&c. 1776, 8vo.) in his account of some extraneous fossil bodies of Lower Germany, has given the descriptions and figures of two curious phytolypolithi, greatly resembling some of those, which I remember to have particularly remarked in the said Ironstone. Mr. Beuth may well style these bodies, rarissimi partus.
"The hilly promontory a few miles to the west of Cardiff, as well as the blue limestone of the lower country, between Cardiff and Newport, also affords fossil marine bodies in plenty, especially the Gryphites oyster, which is not ouly found abundantly in the lower part of Monmouthshire, and about Purton Passage, but also extends, in considerable aggregates, along the neighbouring midland counties; having myself traced them, either in the Gravel or Limestone, through Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, and Leicestershire ; occupying in like manner, the lower parts of those Counties, under the Hills.
"In the high mountains on the confines of Glamorganshire and Brecknockshire, near Yneskedwyn (p.38) I observed a rock of the same kind of black shelly Marble, that is found in such plenty near Kilkenny in Ireland; and which I afterwards saw in great abundance in Pembrokeshire, where it is also worked. The petrified shells contained in all these Marbles, are striated conchee anomiae, which are not only exotics, but known to be extremely scarce."
XXIII. On the Effect of Vapour on Flame. By J. F. Dana, Chemical Assistant in Harvard University, and Lecturer on Chemistry and Pharmacy in Dartmouth College.* To Professor Silliman.

Cambridge, Mass. February 5, 1819.
$\mathrm{Drar}_{\mathrm{sir}}, \mathrm{A}_{\text {bout a }}$ year since I made some experiments on the effect of steam on ignited bodies, with a view to learn the theory of the action of the "American water-burner." These experiments were published in an anonymous paper in the North American Review, and have heen published in London, without an acknowledgement of their source.

The effect of them concerning bodies is peculiar, and it probably admits of more extensive application to the arts than in the above named instrument alone.

When a jet of steam, issuing from a small aperture, is thrown on burning charcoal, the brightness is increased if the coal be held at the distance of four or five inches from the pipe through which the steam passes; but if the coal be held nearer, it is extinguished, a circular black spot first appears where the steam is thrown on it. The steam in this case does not appear to be decomposed, and the increased brightuess of the coal depends probably on a current of atmospheric air, occasioned by the steam. But when a jet of steam, instead of being thrown on a single coal, is made to pass into a charcoal fire, the vividness of the combustion is increased, and the low attenuated flame of coal is enlarged.

When the wick of a common oil lamp is raised, so as to give of large columns of smoke, and a jet of steam is thrown into it, the brightness of the flame is increased, and no smoke is thrown off.

When spirits of turpentine is made to hurn on a wick, the light produced is dull and reddish, and a large quantity of thick smoke is given off; but when a jet of steam is thrown into this flame, its brightness is much increased; and when the experiment is carefully performed, the smoke entirely disappears.

[^2]
[^0]:    * On this Work I offered some strictures, in your 45th vol. p. 338 ; see also vol. 52, p. 184 Note.

[^1]:    * At my request, the same kind friend, looked carefully through all this work of Dr. Lister's, in order to inform me, whether there are any other passages therein, favourable in any way to the assertions Mr. Greenough has made, regarding Dr. Lister's knowledge and use of Fossil Shells, in tracing or following Strata, by their means? : and his answer is, "It does not appear that Dr. Lister, either traced the Strats by the Shells, or the Shells by the Strata; it also appears, that he often confounded several Species under one Title."
    † Derbyshire Report, I. 112 ; a name, which since 1811, Mr. Smith appears to have dropped, and included this Stratum in the "Green Sand," of his Map and Publications.

    Vol. 54. No. 256. Aug. 1819.

[^2]:    *From Silliman's Journal, No. 4.

