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G.B. Greenough Esq.

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XXXIV. *Observations on certain free Remarks by Mr. FAREY published in the last Number of the Philosophical Magazine. By G. B. GREENOUGH, Esq.*

To Mr. Tillock.

SIR, — IN the last Number of your Magazine, Mr. Farey complains with justice that a passage, extracted from his Agricultural Report of Derbyshire, is, in a work which I have lately published, ascribed, not to its real author, but to Mr. Hutchinson. I am sorry for the error, and still more that, not being previously informed of it, I have had no opportunity of cancelling till now the leaf that contained it. To say that the error was unintentional, is scarcely necessary. This must be obvious to every one who does not consider me destitute of common sense as well as common honesty.

That I ascribe to Mr. Hutchinson the words of Mr. Farey, is however not my only offence. I am accused of not ascribing to Mr. Farey the discovery* of Mr. Hutchinson. I am accused also of not quoting books which I had not read. Both these charges, like the former, are perfectly just.

Your correspondent considers me, in common with many other persons, actuated by feelings of hostility towards Mr. Smith. Now my feelings towards that gentleman are directly the reverse. I respect him for the important services he has rendered to geology, and I esteem him for the example of dignity, meekness, modesty, and candour, which he continually, though ineffectually, exhibits to his self-appointed champion.

In the work of Dr. Lister, entitled *Historia Animalium Angliæ*, is a passage which I have alluded but not referred to, "for reasons," it is said, "best known to myself." Your Correspondent has discovered this passage, notwithstanding all the pains I took to conceal it, and, being in Latin, has got it translated by a gentleman whom, with a proper sense of gratitude for the service conferred upon this occasion, he characterizes as a learned naturalist and kind friend. That he is a kind friend I readily believe; for, not content with misconstruing the last clause in the sentence, he does not construe at all the words "*at perpetuo*," by far the most important of any, as affecting the question at issue. The question is, whether Lister did or did not perceive a connexion between the small belemnite and the bed which con-

* In your Magazine, vol. xlii. p. 107, Mr. Farey, referring to the case of faults deranging the strata beneath, but without a corresponding step or cliff appearing on the surface, informs us that this fact was first pointed out by Mr. John Hutchinson; in your last Number he says "Mr. Greenough well knows that in 1806 I made the important discovery."

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tains it. The original passage is, "Hunc lapidem (viz. the blemnite) plurimis in locis apud nos quam copiosissimè inveni; at *perpetuo* in terrâ rubrâ ferreâ *sive ea mollior gleba sive saxea sit.*" Now follows the translation: "This stone is found very abundantly in many places among us in a red ferruginous earth, either in softer or more stony masses."

In one of my Essays I have mentioned the name of Mr. Martin first, and that of Mr. Smith afterwards, to the great displeasure of my commentator, who thinks I should have mentioned the name of Mr. Smith first, and that of Mr. Martin afterwards; for what reason I am utterly at a loss to imagine, unless, because in reading the passage my commentator has overlooked the words "at an early period," as his friend has overlooked the "*at perpetuo.*" I really feel obliged to one, who, in questioning my fairness, affords so characteristic a specimen of his own.

In the same volume I have adduced my reasons for doubting the intimate and invariable connexion which has been said to exist between contemporaneous strata and their fossils. Mr. Farey, an advocate for that connexion, which he maintains was first laid down by Mr. Smith, does not undertake to prove its correctness; he contents himself with assuming it. But as the assumption of a contested fact is apt to imply, not the absence of doubt, but the absence of evidence, I am somewhat curious to be informed how far Mr. Farey's theory on this subject is borne out by his experience. He has examined Derbyshire with very laudable industry; will he take the trouble to mention, what the fossils are, by which he is enabled to distinguish the different limestones in that county, or the different sandstones, or the different shales? There will be time to discuss the originality of the doctrine when its truth is established. If its truth cannot be established, I beg very respectfully to ask Mr. Farey, whether he can hope to exalt the character of his teacher by proving him the first discoverer of that which does not exist?

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

G. B. GREENOUGH.

XXXV. *A new Theory of Galvanism, supported by some Experiments and Observations made by means of the Calorimotor, a new Galvanic Instrument; also, a new Mode of decomposing Potash extemporaneously. Read before the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. By ROBERT HARE, M.D. Professor of Chemistry in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, and Member of several Learned Societies.*

I HAVE for some time been of opinion that the principle extricated by the Voltaic pile is a compound of caloric and electricity,