

TOULMIN SMITH (1816-1869).

By Prof. W. W. WATTS, Sc.D. M.Sc., F.R.S., V.P.G.S.

A PORTRAIT of the First President of the Association, Joshua Toulmin Smith, known after 1854 as Toulmin Smith, forms the frontispiece of this volume of the PROCEEDINGS.* It is from a photograph kindly lent for the purpose by Mr. G. Potter. The following particulars of his life are taken from the *Dictionary of National Biography* and the Royal Society's *Catalogue of Scientific Papers*.

He was the eldest son of William Hawkes Smith, of Birmingham, and was born in 1816. He was a keen student of literature and philosophy, and at seventeen wrote an *Introduction to the Latin Language*, followed, when he was twenty, by a work on *Philosophy Among the Ancients*. Although intended at first for the Unitarian ministry, he became a solicitor, and was afterwards called to the Bar in 1849. He spent the first years after his marriage in 1837 in the United States, where he published *The Discovery of America by the Northmen in the Tenth Century*, which gained him the diploma of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Copenhagen. It was after his return to London, in 1842, that he devoted his attention to geology as a recreation, and at this period he published the following papers :

1. "On the Discovery of the Remains of a very remarkable Reptile or Fish in the Chalk of Kent." London, *Geol. Journ.*, i, 1846, pp. 21, 22.
2. "On the Formation of the Flints of the Upper Chalk." *Ann. Nat. Hist.*, xix, 1847, pp. 1-16 ; Froriep, *Notizen*, ii, 1847, col. 129-134.
3. "Further observations on the formation of the flints of the Upper Chalk, with Remarks on the sponge theory of Mr. Bowerbank." *Ann. Nat. Hist.*, xix, 1847, pp. 289-309.
4. "On the Ventriculidæ of the chalk, including the description of peculiar characters of structure observed in their tissues." *Ann. Nat. Hist.*, xx, 1847, pp. 73-97 ; 176-191 ; i, 1848, pp. 36-48, 279-294, 352-371. This work was illustrated by drawings based on his own microscopic work.
5. "On the different beds of the upper chalk, and on the faults and dislocations which they exhibit." *Ann. Nat. Hist.*, xx, 1847, pp. 334-341.

Part of his fine collection of fossils, including the Chalk sponges, is now preserved in the British Museum (Natural History).

In 1847 he had turned his attention to matters of public health and legislation connected with it, and on this he wrote several works. He also took great interest and an active part in the struggle of the Hungarians for liberty. In 1854, after refusing an invitation to stand as a candidate for Parliament, he aided in the formation of the Anti-Centralisation Union, and from 1857-1865 published, with no help except from members of his own

* Issued with Part I of the Volume

family, the *Parliamentary Remembrancer*. The very hard work in connection with this publication, together with his practice at the Parliamentary Bar, broke down his health; and on April 28th, 1869, he was drowned while bathing at Lancing. He was buried in Hornsey Churchyard. Besides the works mentioned, he published others on matters pertaining to law and history, including an important work on "English Gilds."

ORDINARY MEETING.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 1909.

Prof. W. W. WATTS, Sc.D., F.R.S., Sec.G.S., President,
in the Chair.

The following were elected members of the Association :
Archibald William Robertson Don, E. Arden Minty, William
Theophilus Ord, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., The Hon. Mrs. Pember,
E. P. Richards, F.G.S., Francis Herbert Richardson, John W. D.
Robinson, H. Eliot Walton.

The following papers were then read : "The Systematic
Examination of a thin Section of a Crystal with an ordinary
Petrological Microscope," by John W. Evans, LL.B., D.Sc.,
F.G.S. (see p. 79); "The Genesis of the Yorkshire Chalk,"
by J. R. Mortimer (see p. 95).
