

toes of unequal length, and attributed to an extinct bird known to American naturalists by the name of ornitichnites.

An interesting collection of these footprints has been deposited by the order of M. Paul Gervais in the Geological Gallery of the Faculty of Sciences at Montpellier, where they may be examined at leisure by naturalists visiting that town.

LETTER FROM THE REV. C. KINGSLEY,
RECTOR OF EVERSLEY.

(To the Editor of the GEOLOGIST.)

DEAR SIR,—I have read with great pleasure and also great hope, your first number—and am especially delighted to find that you aim at spreading a popular knowledge of Geology. May I, in furtherance of this object, make a suggestion? Why not establish in your magazine a regular geological “Notes and Queries” department?

There are hundreds, if not thousands, who have no time to work out geological problems for themselves; who yet are most desirous of instruction, and would receive the results of the science frankly and trustfully. Artizans desirous of self-instruction, and ladies of rank desirous of instructing their children would, alike, be glad to know a hundred things which, not having books, time, or perhaps scientific habits of mind, they cannot find out for themselves. If a knot of wise men, and such a clergyman as Mr. Brodie among them, would deign to explain to these people their puzzles, they would be doing a noble work, and sowing good seed in many minds which would bear fruit in a future generation, by freeing it from childhood, from the bonds of many superstitions and traditions of altogether human invention.

May I give an instance in which I myself appear in the character of one begging for information?

Last summer, in the Isle of Purbeck, I was told of a wonderful rock, the Haggerstone,* which lay on the top of a hill in the northern moors of the Isle, overlooking Poole Harbour. “Would I go and see it?” For nobody agreed how it got here. “It was a proof of Noah’s

* QUERY.—Hag’s Stone; Hexe’s Stone; Witches’ Stone.

Deluge." "It had been washed up to its present elevation by a flood." "It had been formed" (this I think was the suggestion of a Reverend Brother) "by sands blown up the hill from the mouth of Poole Harbour" !!! and so forth—some of the theories being not much in advance of that of the country folk, "that the devil had dropped it there" (as he is in the habit of dropping boulders in many counties) "during a nightly excursion for the purpose of blocking up Poole Harbour mouth." I went, and found a noble rock indeed—a cube of some twenty feet—on an isolated heather peak looking far and wide over moor and sea, with an old black-cock washing his steel-blue jacket in the sand at its foot.

A glance showed me that it was no boulder, but a remnant of partially-removed tertiary strata, probably still *in situ*, though it might have sunk to a lower level from the abrasion of softer beds beneath.

But (and here my ignorance cries for help) I found that its innumerable strata, and the gravel around, were not composed of the same materials as the Bagshot and New Forest beds, with which I am tolerably acquainted, but of coarse quartz grit, mixed with a dark grit, apparently fragments of trap.

Now will any kind and wise man tell me (1) How they got there? (2) Whether they came from the Dartmoor granites and South Devon traps? (3) Whether they have any connexion with the vast beds of porcelain clay which are spread over the basin of Poole Harbour, a few miles off? One could not help fancying that the soluble silicates of alumina from the disintegrated metamorphic rocks lay below in the deeper basin, while the coarser grit had been washed on to the shores of the æstuary to be upheaved afterwards on the shoulders of the Corfe chalk ridge: but guesses are useless without investigation; and I was leaving the place in a day or two, and did not know but that the whole subject had been worked out already by some wiser man. Am I, therefore, to be debarred from learning at second hand what I had no means of discovering at first hand? And how can I more easily learn than through such a "Notes and Queries" department as I recommend to you?

Conceive hundreds of people having each a question like mine to ask, and a dozen kind-hearted sages who will bear with our ignorance (often I fear with our silliness) and answer, at least, "If you will read such and such a book, you will find out all about it." And you will see

that there is plenty of scattered good (for all teaching is good) to be done; and also plenty of possible subscribers to your magazine, when it has taken a shape which will bear on them.

Believe me,

Your thorough well-wisher,

C. KINGSLEY, F.L.S., F.S.A., &c.

[In one of the prospectuses in which THE GEOLOGIST was announced, it was described as "a general gazette of Geology," "a geological 'Notes and Queries;'" and it was with the view of establishing a "Notes and Queries" department, or something equivalent thereto, that students and others who might wish for information were invited to send their questions to the editor of this magazine. We beg leave to call particular attention to this invitation, which will be found repeated this month on the second page of the cover. It is gratifying to find our plan approved by a man so well qualified to give an opinion on the subject as Mr. Kingsley; and we hail his letter and the recommendation it contains with great pleasure. We hope that some one or other of our readers, who may have studied the Geology of the Isle of Purbeck, will have the goodness to reply to the questions propounded by our correspondent. The latter will perceive that we now commence a "Notes and Queries" department which will, we hope, eventually attain much larger dimensions, and will serve effectually the purposes for which it is intended.—ED. OF GEOLOGIST.]

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WARWICKSHIRE NATURALISTS' AND ARCHÆOLOGISTS' FIELD CLUB DURING THE PAST SUMMER.

ALTHOUGH this Society has only been established since July, 1854, the number of members now amounts to nearly one hundred, and the meetings have been most agreeable and successful. We think it may interest our readers if we give, from time to time, a short account of the proceedings of the club; and in order to bring it up to the present year, we shall briefly review the labours of the session concluded in October.

The first meeting was held at Chipping Campden, in Gloucestershire, on Tuesday, the 20th of May. A party of fifteen started from Warwick at 8.30, reaching their destination at 11. Here they were joined by only three members of the Cotswold Naturalist's Club, whom the Warwickshire Club hoped to have met in full force, especially in their own county, but unforeseen causes prevented the attendance of the most active labourers in the field, with the exception of