

system of strata, with no very important breaks in it, the conventional limits which are to be adopted for the Upper, Middle and Lower divisions, respectively, appear to me to be a question of by no means great importance. At the same time, any attempt to disturb, without very good cause shown, names which have come into general use, or to alter the definition of terms which have been generally accepted—whether the attempt be made by officers of the Geological Survey, in their individual or their corporate capacity—will, I strongly suspect, prove a hopeless, as I am sure that it is a useless, task. Consequently, I trust the idea of “formulating a new nomenclature” as the result of “the revision by the members of the Geological Survey” of the Cretaceous rocks of England, is one that will, in moments of calmer reflection, be abandoned. Scientific names go through a “struggle for existence,” and the fittest survive. I trust my friend Mr. Jukes-Browne will draw a moral from the fact, that the name Neocomian has shown a very considerably greater vitality than he seems to have suspected.

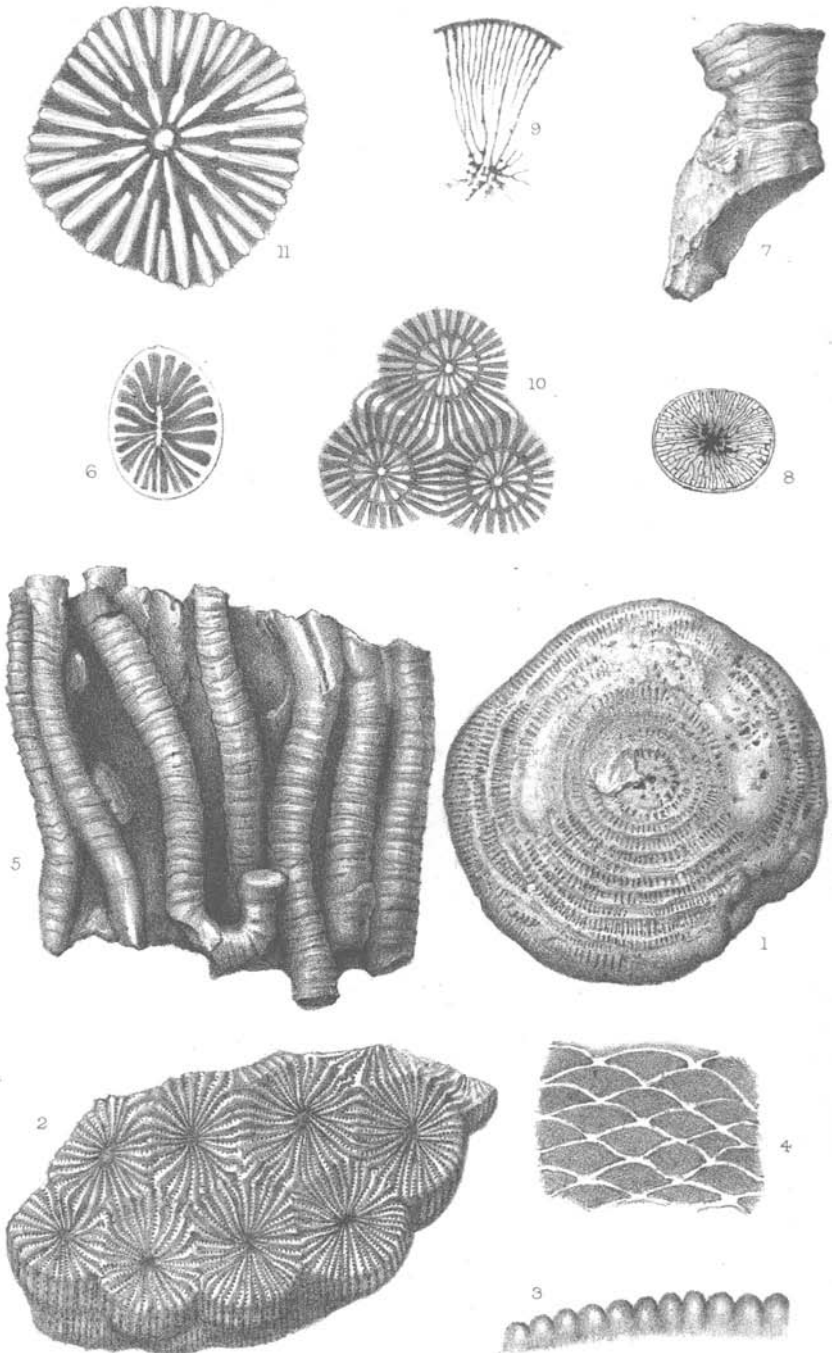
But while Mr. Jukes-Browne gives me credit for that of which I cannot possibly accept the honour, he himself assumes a responsibility which, it seems to me, he is not called upon to bear. In speaking of “the merits of the name (*Vectian*) which I have already proposed as a substitute for Lower Greensand,” he must surely have forgotten a well-known passage in the works of Dr. Fitton. After remarking that he had long since stated his objections to the use of the term Lower Greensand, that author writes as follows:—“If hereafter a change be thought desirable, he conceives that the new denomination should be taken from the *Isle of Wight*, where this portion of the sub-cretaceous groups was first distinguished, and where the sections on the coast are remarkable for their distinctness; and if such a case should arise, he suggests the name *Vectine* for the strata now called Lower Green Sand, from the ancient name of that island,—*Insula Vectis* of the Romans” (Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc. 1845, vol. i. p. 189).

As the paper in which this passage occurs was read in 1844 and published in 1845, it seems to me scarcely more likely that Mr. Jukes-Browne could have offered useful hints on the subject to Fitton than that I was engaged in a previous year in improperly influencing Godwin-Austen.

JOHN W. JUDD.

ERUPTION OF MOUNT TARAWERA, NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

—A most destructive volcanic outburst occurred on the night of the 9th of June, from Tarawera, a mountain not more than 3000 feet high, which rises near the lake of the same name, and about nine miles from Rotomahana. At two o'clock a shock of greater violence occurred followed by a terrific roar, a pillar of light shot up from the summit of Tarawera, molten lava and hot mud were rained abroad, while huge rocks were thrown up and around in all directions. Showers of hot cinders and boiling mud covered the settlement of Wairoa, killing on the spot or burying alive numbers of persons. For sixty miles the destruction has spread. About 100 persons have perished, whilst villages and settlements are covered with eight or ten feet of mud or ashes. We hope to give a fuller account in our next number.



G. Berjeau del. et lith.

West, Newman & Co. imp.

To illustrate Mr. Tomes's paper