conjecture. And it is founded on the most ridiculous confusion between *space* and *time*, between *place* and *period*, as I have argued throughout "Rain and Rivers."

Mr. Baily will not, I am sure, think that I intend to attack him. I attack the received doctrine which Mr. Baily supports; and I must confess that I am the twelfth juryman who complained of his eleven obstinate compeers.—I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, and most obliged,
GEORGE GREENWOOD, Colonel.

BROOKWOOD PARK, ALRESFORD,
19*th July*, 1867.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM JOHN HAMILTON, F.R.S., G.S., ETC.—It is with sincere regret that we have to record the loss which the science of geology, very many personal friends, its cultivators, and, above all, the Geological Society of London, has sustained by the premature decease of Mr. William Hamilton, a loss which can be but very imperfectly replaced, owing to his long official connexion with that Society, and his accurate knowledge of its affairs. Mr. Hamilton became a member of the Geological Society in 1831, and in the following year was elected one of its honorary secretaries, which office, or else that of Foreign Secretary, he continued to occupy almost uninterruptedly till 1854, when he was elected its President. Mr. Hamilton's first contribution to geology dates back to 1835, from observations made in the previous year, and relates to the proofs of recent elevation of the land, which he had observed on the coast of Fifeshire. About this time, and, as is generally understood, at the suggestion of the present Sir R. Murchison, Mr. Hamilton formed the plan of an extended foreign tour for the purpose of studying the phenomena of physical geography and geology; through him also he became acquainted with the late Mr. Hugh Strickland, which resulted in their becoming fellow travellers; the partnership was a judicious combination, and Mr. Hamilton constantly acknowledges the value of Mr. Strickland's great knowledge in various branches of natural history.

The limits of such a notice as the present preclude even a summary of Mr. Hamilton's travels. They were commenced in the summer of 1835. Beginning with the extinct volcanic districts and old lacustrine areas of the Mont Dor and the Vivarais, as preparatory to visiting those of Asia Minor, they thence passed by the North of Italy, Trieste, Corfu, Patras, Corinth, Athens. They reached Smyrna by the end of October, having visited much that was of interest on their way. Mr. Strickland was called back to England in the early part of 1836, after which Mr. Hamilton continued his travels alone, but some papers, the results of their joint observations, were communicated to the Geological Society.

The summer of 1836 was spent in the country to the south of the Black Sea, returning to Smyrna by November. He then accepted

the offer of Mr. J. Brooke (now Rajah Brooke) of a cruise in the "Royalist," along the coasts of Ionia and Caria to Rhodes. This occupied till February, 1837, when, starting again from Smyrna, he visited for the second time the Katakecaumene, of which he gave an account, which was published in the transactions of the Society, as also another memoir on the Eastern portion of Asia Minor. The objects of Mr. Hamilton's travels were not, however, exclusively geological. The results were given in two volumes, as "Researches in Asia Minor: Pontus and Armenia, their Antiquities and Geology," to which reference must be made before a just estimate can be formed as to Mr. Hamilton's qualifications as an enterprising and accomplished traveller. The objects proposed were successfully carried out, and so far as he himself was concerned, the Eastern tour served to realize what as yet was undeveloped, gave him habits of observation, and of applying the varied education he had received, created a power of clear narration, and finally assigned to him a high position among modern English travellers. He possessed all the qualities which go to form a good traveller; he was unselfish, always adapting himself readily to circumstances, and a good companion; moreover, he was an accomplished linguist. Spanish, French, Italian, and German were as familiar to him as his own language.

Mr. Hamilton was elected President of the Geological Society for the second time in 1865. His later contributions to Geology were on Tuscany, and the best account that has yet been given of the Eocene basin of Mainz was the result of his examination, and of the large collection of the fossils he formed there in 1852. For some years he had devoted much time and expense to recent conchology, under a sense of the dependence of the history of the "Tertiary period" of geologists, on a knowledge of existing forms of shells, and their geographical distribution, with which objects in view he had already formed a very large collection. It was in the hope that he might some day turn this knowledge to the service of geology that he joined in the excursions which several of his fellow members of the Geological Society made into the districts of the Faluns of Touraine, and of the crag of Antwerp.

Mr. Hamilton was an active Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society—he was elected president for the years 1848 and 1849, and has served on the Council for many years. He contributed the article, "Geography" to the Admiralty Manual of Scientific Inquiry, edited by Sir John Herschel.

Mr. William Hamilton was the eldest son of Mr. Hamilton, sometime British Minister at Naples, and author of Ægyptiaca; was born in 1805, educated first at the Charter House, and subsequently at the University of Gottingen. At the outset of his career he served in the foreign Diplomatic Service at Madrid, Paris, and Florence. He was *prècis* writer at the Foreign Office under Lord Aberdeen, and resigned it on his election for Yarmouth. Mr. Hamilton was twice married; his second wife, who survives, was the Hon. Helena Dillon, youngest daughter of Viscount Dillon.—R. G-A.