

like a mirror. But that this Glacial condition is constant, and maintained by conditions unaffected by the revolution or rotation of the Moon, is evident, because no important visible change of colour takes place either at the bases or summits of the mountains or plains which lie, like our polar regions, wrapped in eternal snow. To the geologist, as an analogous condition to the Glacial period of the earth, this condition of the Moon is of the highest interest.

Some of these Glacial appearances have not escaped the notice of observers. Professor Frankland, in a lecture delivered at the Royal Institution,<sup>1</sup> states that, after long observations of the lunar surface, he thinks he has detected evidences of former glacial action and the presence of moraines in the Moon. In 1842, on an occasion of a lunar eclipse, Arago saw at Perpignan, on the edge of the Moon's black disk, a fiery protuberance like "an Alpine Glacier" illumined by the setting sun.

S. BIRCH.

BRITISH MUSEUM, January 19, 1866.

#### CARBONIFEROUS FOSSILS FOR EXCHANGE.

*To the Editor of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.*

SIR,—On the part of the Bolton Scientific Students' Association, who are about forming a small collection of Geological Fossils, I wish to ask your assistance in enabling our Society to exchange fossils of the Carboniferous system for characteristic fossils of other formations. By this means, collectors who have, it may be, a superabundance of fossils from their own immediate neighbourhood, but who have no facilities for obtaining Carboniferous specimens, by making a mutual exchange, will be conferring a favour, at the same time they receive a consideration in return. I shall be glad to correspond with any collector on the subject, if, by means of your MAGAZINE, we can be put in communication.—Yours respectfully,

WILLIAM WALCH, *Hon. Sec.*

29, HEATON TERRACE, ST. GEORGE'S PLACE, BOLTON, Jan. 6, 1866.

#### THE EARLY APPEARANCE OF MAN IN THE EAST.

We have just received (January 19th) a most interesting letter from Mr. Henry F. Blanford, F.G.S., Secretary to the Royal Asiatic Society, and of the Geological Survey of India, dated Calcutta, 22nd December, 1865, in which, after referring to the recently-published discoveries of Stone Implements in Lateritic Formations in various parts of the Madras and North Arcot Districts, by Messrs. R. Bruce Foote and William King, jun., he proceeds to say: "Poor Lieut. Irwing discovered worked agates shortly afterwards, in the alluvial deposits of the Nerbudda. Mr. Canne sent a couple of specimens to the Asiatic Society, and they turn out to be 'cores,' very small, but identical in form with that shown in Pl. I., fig. 6, of Sir J. Lubbock's work.<sup>2</sup> At the last meeting of the Asiatic Society it was announced

<sup>1</sup> See *Chemical News*, 1864, p. 116.

<sup>2</sup> *Pre-historic Times*, as illustrated by *Ancient Remains*, and the *Manners and Customs of Modern Savages*. By J. Lubbock, F.R.S. London: Williams and Norgate. 8vo. 1865.

that Mr. Bynne, of the Geological Survey of India, had discovered worked agates in the Bone-beds of the Upper Godavery, which are, there is little doubt, of the same age as those of the Nerbudda, which contain *Elephas (Stegodon) insignis*, *Elephas (Loxodon) Namadicus*, *Hippopotamus palæindicus*, *Bos palæindicus*, *Bos Namadicus*, etc. I am endeavouring to stir up the interest of the public in the matter of Ancient Man, and to get some one to investigate the Limestone Caves of the Khansas, Birmah, etc.; but most of our limestone caves are in remote provinces, and I am afraid we shall have to wait a few years yet."—EDIT.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.—The Council have awarded the Neill Prize for the triennial Period 1862-65 to Andrew Crombie Ramsay, F.R.S., Professor of Geology in the Government School of Mines, and Local Director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, for his various works and memoirs published during the last five years, in which he has applied the large experience acquired by him in the Direction of the arduous work of the Geological Survey of Great Britain to the elucidation of important questions bearing on Geological Science.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—The Council have decided to award the Wollaston Gold Medal this year to Sir Charles Lyell, Bart., F.R.S., in acknowledgment of the eminent service he has rendered to the science of Geology by his published works and researches.

The Council have further decided to award the Wollaston Donation-fund to Mr. Henry Woodward, in aid of his further researches in the Fossil *Crustacea*.

HER MAJESTY has been pleased to advance Sir Roderick Impey Murchison to the dignity of Baronet, "in recognition of distinguished merits and attainments."—*Reader*, Dec. 30, 1865.

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## OBITUARY.

NICHOLAS WOOD, F.R.S., F.G.S., Mem. Inst. Civ. Eng. This eminent mining engineer, was a native of Tyneside, and the intimate friend and companion of the late George Stephenson, many of whose discoveries he assisted in bringing before the public notice. For more than forty years he has been actively engaged in mine-engineering, and was justly regarded as the greatest authority upon every branch of the subject, whether scientific or practical. In 1852 he was elected President of the Northern Institute of Mining Engineers, when he delivered the inaugural address, and he has since considerably promoted its success by devoting to it all his influence, talent, and much of his time. He contributed a number of very important papers on Geology and