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CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. JUKES-BROWNE AND THE GENITIVE.

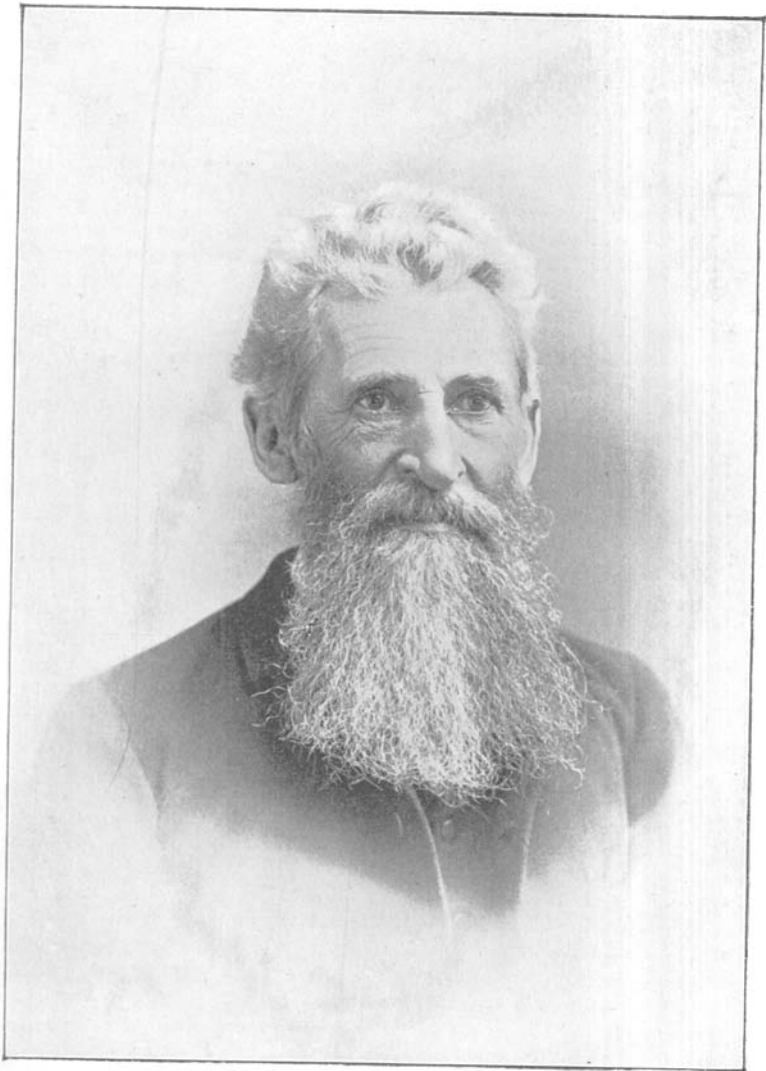
SIR,—Mr. Jukes-Browne asks whether I “made a slip in the construction of the name” *Merocrinus Salopiæ*. I answer, “No.” I deliberately preferred the name to several alternatives, on the grounds of euphony and brevity. One alternative was “*Merocrinus scrobbesbyrigshirensis*”: am I wrong in my preference? Mr. Jukes-Browne intimates that I am wrong; and this forces me to traverse all his assertions.

It is needless to discuss whether *salopiensis* or *salopicus* be the more correct adjectival form of *Salopia*: Mr. Jukes-Browne prefers the latter; the former is the one in universal use. I rejected both, not from considerations of correctness or incorrectness, but because I liked “*Salopia*” better. Mr. Jukes-Browne politely but firmly rebukes me. I apologise, indeed, for the unintentional insult to one of his lady friends; but to me, and to all good folk round the Wrekin, “*Salopia*” means primarily Shrewsbury; and, by a well-known figure of speech, we constantly extend the name to embrace the whole “*comitatus salopiensis*.” Now Mr. Jukes-Browne may dislike genitives as much as did Mistress Quickly, but that does not make them improper. Was it a slip when Tacitus wrote of “*Germaniæ gentes*” (Histor. III, xli), or “*Mæsiæ duces*” (III, liii), or “*plana Umbræ*” (III, xlii)? If a man likes to talk about the *Merocrinus* of Salop, rather than the Salopian *Merocrinus*, what power in the world is to hinder him?

I fail to understand, I cannot conceive, on what grounds Mr. Jukes-Browne lays down the law. Apart from the usage of classical Latin writers there is nothing to guide one, except the rules and recommendations formulated by various committees of zoologists. In the first code, that of Strickland (which Mr. Jukes-Browne would call the Stricklandian), nothing is said on this point, but genitive forms are accepted as ordinary components of the appellations of species. In the last code, that adopted by the International Congresses of 1889 and 1892, I find these rules:—

“14b.—Names of persons to whom the species is dedicated. These names are always to be put in the genitive. This genitive is always to be formed by the addition of a simple *i* to the exact and complete name of the person to whom the dedication is made.”

“19.—If the specific name demands the employment of a geographical name, this should either be put in the genitive or employed under its adjectival form, if it was known to the Romans, or if it has been Latinized by mediæval writers. Under its adjectival



CHARLES WACHSMUTH.

1829-1896.

See Obituary, GEOL. MAG., p. 189, April, 1896.

form it is always to be written with a small initial letter: e.g. *Antillarum*, *Galliæ*, *lybicus*, *ægyptiacus*, etc.”

It is then strange, but true, that the name *Merocrinus Salopiæ* is not only in conformity with Latin usage, but also with the rules of zoologists. As for euphony, tastes differ, especially in different countries. Mr. Jukes-Browne modestly shrinks from the Latinized genitive of “Bell”; some, however, find more pungent offence in the adjectival form of my critic’s own name, even when screened by a “jukes” or similar useful prefix. Still, these objections are purely provincial; they would not be felt by a German or Japanese; they have no place in orthography or zoology. And is it not absurd of Mr. Jukes-Browne and myself to be discussing a mode of nomenclature that he has taken a vow never to employ, a vow which I hope we shall both live long to keep?

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, S.W.
March 4th, 1896.

F. A. BATHEE.

OBITUARY.

CHARLES WACHSMUTH.

BORN SEPTEMBER 13TH, 1829.

DIED FEBRUARY 7TH, 1896.

THE Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard is about to publish “A Monograph of the Crinoidea Camerata of North America,” in two volumes, consisting of 800 pages and 83 plates. This great work is the result of some 40 years’ labour on the part of Charles Wachsmuth, of Burlington, Iowa, assisted for about half that period by Frank Springer. Those who have followed the writings of these palæontologists, and who are looking forward to this climax of their efforts, will deeply regret to hear of the death of the senior author, which has deprived him of the congratulations of his colleagues and the joy of an aspiration fulfilled.

Charles Wachsmuth was the only son of Christian Wachsmuth, an eminent lawyer of Hanover, Germany, in which city he was born and educated. He abandoned the profession of the law on account of weak health, and early turned his attention to commerce.

In 1852 Charles Wachsmuth went to New York as an agent for a Hamburg shipping house in the interest of German emigration. Here he remained for two years, but as the climate did not agree with him, he removed to Burlington, Iowa, where he finally settled, having married, in 1856, Miss Bernandina Lorenz. Up to this time Wachsmuth had paid no attention to science, but being still of weak health, he was advised by his physician to spend as much time as possible in the open air, and to take to fossil-collecting. The magnificent remains contained in the Burlington Limestone, especially the fossil crinoids, soon aroused in him the enthusiasm that ceased only with death. In less than three years he had made a collection whose fame extended into other States. Excited by the report of Jules Marcou, in 1864 Louis Agassiz visited Burlington, and struck by the intelligence of Wachsmuth invited him to Cambridge. Thither he went, in 1865, on his way to Europe. This journey was used by