

chlorite group. Its most remarkable characteristics are its low specific gravity and its resistance to the blowpipe, both curious points considering the large quantity of iron it contains." In composition it somewhat resembles delessite, but differs from it in colour, hardness, streak, and specific gravity. No analysis is given in the *Quarterly Journal of Science*

J. H. C.

Obituary.

MEMBERS of the Mineralogical Society will have heard with deep regret of the sudden death of Prof. Robert Harkness. He was present at the meeting of this Society held in London, July 4th, and read a paper on Cotterite, and all who were present will remember the genial and jocular manner in which he met the critical remarks of some of the members present. He was elected member of the Council of the Society at the Dublin meeting, in August last.

He died suddenly at the Imperial Hotel, Dublin, on the 5th of October, 1878.

The following brief memoir appeared in "Nature" of the 10th inst. :—

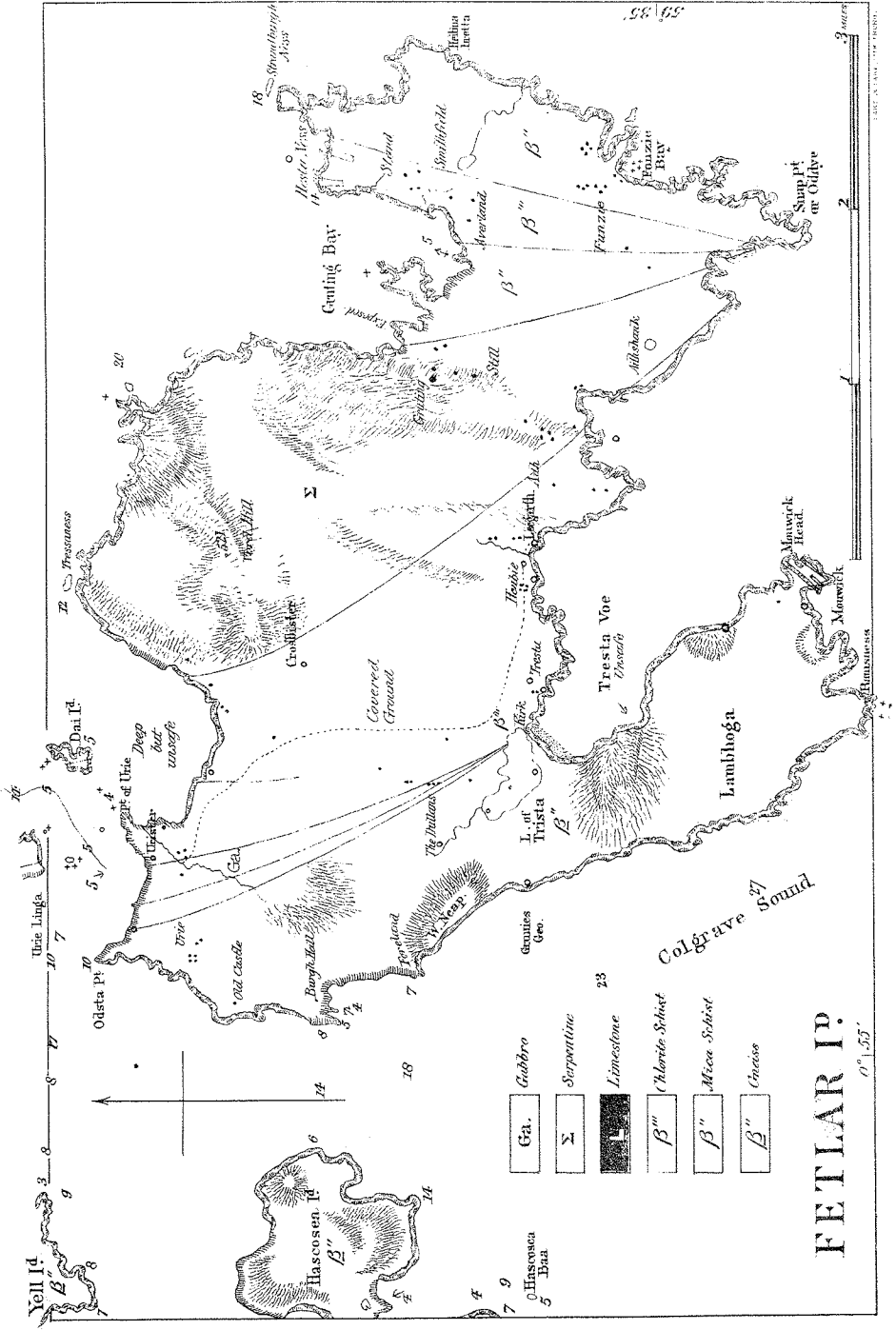
"ANOTHER of the captains in the phalanx of British geologists has dropped from the ranks. Robert Harkness died suddenly in Dublin on Saturday last. He had been ailing for some time, and the disease from which he suffered—an affection of the heart—had gained ground so much this year that he lately felt himself compelled to resign the chair of geology at Cork. It was the expectation of his friends that, released from duties which he had so long conscientiously performed, he might yet enjoy some years of comparative health in the quiet retirement of his Cumberland home, to which he used to return with such pleasure every summer. But this was not to be. He has fallen just as he had himself brought the public labours of his life to a close.

It is now some five-and-thirty years since the name of this able geologist first appeared as a writer on his favourite science. During this long period he had explored, on foot, the geology of large districts in the north of England, in Scotland, and in various parts of Ireland. The reports of the British Association and the *Quarterly Journal* of the Geological Society bear witness to his industry and to the painstaking minuteness of his method of investigation. To him we owe our earliest exact information regarding the correlatives of the reptiliferous sandstones of Dumfriesshire and Cumberland. It was his patient labours continued year after year over ground most difficult to unravel, that led the way to

the working out of the structure of the silurian uplands of the south of Scotland. To his research, too, is due the identification of the metamorphic rocks of the north-west of Ireland with those of the west of Scotland. To the elucidation of every one of the palæozoic systems of deposits he contributed something of value.

But important as was his scientific work, it had not a wider and more hearty recognition among his brother geologists than his own admirable qualities of head and heart. Who that has been privileged with his friendship will not cherish the memory of his earnestness over even the driest of details, his quiet enthusiasm, his generous admiration for the work of others, his unfailing cheerfulness? Who will forget that beaming ruddy face, never absent from the platform of Section C at the British Association meetings, always ready to rise among the speakers there and to reappear at the festive gatherings in the evening? There have been men who have graven their names more deeply on the registers of scientific thought and progress, but there have been few whose sunny nature has more endeared them in the recollection of their friends than Robert Harkness."

A. G.



[Copied from original colour plate.