



## The late James Parker.

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**M**R. JAMES PARKER was one of the last of an eminent band of amateurs who pursued the study of Geology during that interesting period when Phillips was its leading exponent in Oxford.

It was in the field that he was most at home and there were few details in the Stratford succession around Oxford that were not familiar to him. The excursions of the Geologists' Association, of which body he was for half a century an active member, provided him with frequent opportunities for more extensive studies both at home and abroad. The writer retains a pleasant recollection of his good qualities as a travelling companion when they had to rough it together in an expedition made by the Association to the Lepari Isles and other volcanos of the Mediterranean. His genial good nature and an unfailing store of paradox—sure stimulus to conversation—were not the least of his gifts.

He was always ready to help the Association from his abundant knowledge; on its visit to Oxford in 1880 he prepared a geological map and sections of the country south of the City for its guidance, and as late as 1910 he provided it with a geological section of the Isle of Purbeck.

The discoveries of Boucher de Perthes early excited his interest, and in 1862, three years after the famous visit of Prestwich and Evans, he communicated a paper on the subject to the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society; a little later (1865) he took part in the investigation of Wookey Hole, where he worked in association with Professor Boyd Dawkins. The Somme Valley continued for a long time to exercise his thoughts, in 1872 he delivered a lecture on the Flint-implement-bearing beds of St. Acheal to the Ashmolean Society, and in 1875 he read a paper on a related subject before the Geologists' Association.

But Mr. Parker's most valuable work is represented by his collection, which includes some veritable treasures, notably a nearly complete skeleton of *Streptospondylus*, a close relation of Buckland's *Megalosaurus*. This was first described by Phillips and later

by Professor Baron von Huene and Dr. Baron von Nopcsa, who speaks of it as one of the most complete representatives of its order ever found; the only other specimen known was described by Cuvier and is preserved in the Jardin des Plantes; but Mr. Parker's specimen is "by far the best."

It is partly to Mr. Parker's efforts that the University Museum owes the giant Cetiosaurus found at Kirklington.

Mr. Parker joined the Geologists' Association in 1861; he was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1867.

W. J. SOLLAS.

## Notes and Queries

### RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.*

THE Editors express the earnest hope that a larger number of Correspondents will avail themselves of these pages, and thus help those responsible for the publication of this Journal to extend its usefulness. There are still several Queries—inserted in the Journals for 1912—still remaining unanswered. It is hoped that some readers may solve them.

### Notes.

THE BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The third meeting of the Winter Session was held on February 4th, when a lecture on "The Balkans" was given by Mr. Anderson, Secretary of the Berks Education Committee, illustrated by lantern slides from negatives taken by the lecturer. At the next meeting, held on February 25th, Mr. J. Hautenville Cope lectured on "Eversley and the Neighbourhood." This lecture was also accompanied by slides from photographs taken by Miss Jubb, of Glaston Hill House, Eversley, who kindly lent the slides for the lecture. On March 11th, Mr. Townsend, of Abingdon, author of "A History of Abingdon," gave the Society a most delightful account of that town. He showed a most interesting set of slides, many of which were taken from old prints, etc.