

1884). Mr. G. H. Williams, who is publishing a series of petrological studies on the whole of the rocks in question, reserves to the last any general conclusions concerning their origin; but he states that the area "is quite sharply separated from the gneisses, mica-schists and limestones which surround it, showing none of the gradual transitions into these rocks which Hermann Credner, in his description of this district written in 1865, supposed to exist." (*Ibid.* 3, xxxi. p. 27, 1886.)

ALFRED HARKER.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, *Aug. 5th*, 1887.

OBITUARY.

SIR J. F. JULIUS VON HAAST.

SIR JOHN FRANCIS JULIUS VON HAAST, K.C.M.G., Ph.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., Ord. Fr. Jos., Ord. Coron. Ferr. Austr. Coron. Ital., etc., etc., Director of the Museum, and Professor of Geology in Canterbury College, New Zealand.

It is with deep regret that we learn, through a Reuter's telegram from Wellington, that our friend and fellow-geologist, Sir Julius von Haast, died suddenly of heart disease, on the 15th August. It seems but yesterday that he was here with us, and although complaining of rheumatic gout, which he attributed to the severe work and endless engagements arising out of the duties he was called upon to fulfil last year, as Commissioner in charge of the New Zealand exhibits at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, he appeared to have many more years of good work lying before him.

Sir Julius von Haast has done excellent service to science in New Zealand, not only in connection with its Geology, in which he took an active part, but also in the discovery and collection of remains of the great extinct Wingless Birds of those Islands with which the Museum of Christchurch (N.Z.), and those of nearly all the principal European and American Museums, have been enriched.

Sir Julius received the honour of Knighthood in recognition of his services in connection with the Colonial and Indian Exhibition; but so far back as 1867, he had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in recognition of his services to science. Upwards of thirty memoirs are credited to him in the Royal Society's list of scientific papers, mostly on the Geology and Extinct Birds of New Zealand. His loss will be keenly felt in the Colony where he has laboured so long and diligently.—H. W.

PROFESSOR LAURENT-GUILLAUME DE KONINCK.

Prof. C. Malaise informs us of the recent death (on 16 July last) of our venerable friend, Prof. de Koninck, For. Memb. Geol. Soc. Lond., late Professor of Chemistry and Palæontology in the University of Liège, Belgium. Prof. de Koninck's labours on the Fauna of the Carboniferous rocks of Belgium, England, Australia, etc., are well known. We hope to give a notice of his life in a later Number.—
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