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JAMES DE CARLE SOWERBY, F.L.S., F.Z.S., etc., etc., born June 5th, 1787, eldest son of Mr. James Sowerby, the well-known naturalist and artist, was descended from an old Border family. As a boy he delighted in the pursuit of Natural History, but his special study was experimental and analytical chemistry. He was the friend and companion of Faraday, and with him studied under Sir Humphry Davy, delighting in the honour of assisting the great master in his experiments. His knowledge of Chemistry led him to propose the classification of minerals according to their chemical composition, and for this purpose he analyzed the specimens published in his father's works entitled, "British Mineralogy," and "Exotic Mineralogy." Before he was twenty years of age he named and arranged the collections of the Marchioness of Bath, Miss Codrington, and other amateurs. Working with his father, James de Carle Sowerby's name does not appear to any of his plates until after his father's death, which occurred in 1822. After that event he continued the celebrated works, "English Botany," and "Mineral Conchology," of both which he published several volumes. It was by Mr. Jas. de Carle Sowerby's wish, that the type-collections illustrating this latter important work, were in 1861, acquired for the British Museum, and are now preserved for reference in the Geological Department of that Institution. From 1823 to about 1850, he contributed papers principally relating to Fossil Conchology to the Philosophical Transactions, and to the Proceedings and Transactions of the Geological, Linnæan, and Zoological Societies; he also described, named, and arranged fossil shells for Dr. Buckland, Prof. Sedgwick, Sir Roderick Murchison, Dr. Fitton, Mr. Dixon, Colonel Sykes and others, who in their several published works and papers gratefully acknowledged his assis-

tance. James de Carle Sowerby, in conjunction with his brother George B. Sowerby and other naturalists, conducted the "Zoological Journal," from 1825 to 1835. In 1840, the Council of the Geological Society awarded him the "Wollaston Fund," in order to facilitate the continuation of his researches in Mineral Conchology.

Dr. Buckland, at that time President, spoke in the highest terms of the great services rendered to geological science by Mr. James de Carle Sowerby, especially in illustrating so many works with drawings and engravings of fossil shells and plants, "expressing their characters with a degree of accuracy and truth, which no pencil or burin but those of a scientific artist could possibly accomplish."

In 1846 he was appointed Curator of the Geological Society's Museum-a post which his engagements with the Royal Botanic Society did not permit him to retain for any great length of time.

In 1838 he joined his cousin, Mr. Philip Barnes, F.L.S., (the original proposer of the project) in founding the Royal Botanic Society, and his name appears, together with Mr. Barnes and others, in the Royal Charter of Incorporation granted in 1839.

Mr. James de Carle Sowerby was appointed Secretary to the Society from its commencement, and resided for thirty years at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park. He is succeeded in his post of Secretary by his son Mr. William Sowerby.

No doubt the most valuable assistance given by Mr. Sowerby to the naturalist has been by means of the vast number of portraits of plants, animals, minerals, fossils, etc., most of which he engraved from the specimens themselves. Scientific names, descriptions, and systems of arrangement vary with the progress of the science which gave them birth, and are often superseded and rendered valueless; but such vivid portraits of natural objects as those so ably delineated by Mr. James de Carle Sowerby will always remain lasting memorials of his scientific accuracy and fidelity. He died August 26th, 1871, in his 85th year.

GEOLOGICAL AND OTHER PAPERS, BY JAMES DE CARLE SOWERBY.

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