

While at Edinburgh he had attended the lectures of Robert Jameson, and there acquired a general interest in geology, and it was with the view of doing honour to the memory of his old teacher that he directed in his will that the fund should be called the Barlow-Jameson Fund.

### THE BIGSBY MEDAL

was founded in 1877 by Dr. J. J. Bigsby, F.R.S. The following is the description of the medal:—

Obverse—J. J. BIGSBY, M.D., F.R.S. BIENNIAL PRIZE MEDAL, FOUNDED 1876. Head to left.

Reverse—In outer circle: AWARDED BY THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON FOR WORK OF GREAT MERIT. A representation of a fossil Echinoderm from the Trenton Limestone (Ordovician) around it, AGELACRINITES DICKSONI. FOUND 1822. CANADA. Beneath, J. S. and A. B. WYON.

In 1877 Dr. Bigsby gave to the Society a sum of 200*l.*, the interest of which was to be devoted to providing a medal to be given biennially, preferentially to one who had studied American Geology, 'as an acknowledgment of eminent services in any department of Geology, irrespective of the receiver's country; but he must not be older than 45 years at his last birthday, thus probably not too old for further work, and not too young to have done much.' The medal is struck in gold.

If, by the terms connected with his medal, Dr. Bigsby intimated that no geologist was too old at forty-five, but might be at forty-six, he showed by his own record that a man could do good work until nearly double that age. He ever maintained that one secret of long life was useful occupation.

John Jeremiah Bigsby, M.D. (1792–1881), was a pioneer of geology in Canada. Logan remarked of him in 1863: 'No observer was more accurate than Dr. J. J. Bigsby, secretary to the Boundary Commissioners under the Treaty of Ghent. His range of investigation extended from Quebec to Lake Superior, and beyond the limits of the Province in that direction; and he has accumulated and published a great store of facts, upon the exactness of which the greatest reliance can be placed.'<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 'Life of Sir William E. Logan,' by B. J. Harrington, 1883, p. 124.