

munications on this vital point, and with permission to use them as I might think fit. But I cannot adorn myself with another's robe; I cannot incorporate his matter into my own, without a sense of doing wrong. Yet to deprive the reader of the satisfaction to be derived from the information and reasoning of so high an authority,* I should feel to be an inexcusable offence. It is also proper to mention that the Professor's letter was written by him in haste, under the urgency of University engagements, and when setting out on his geological tour this summer in France, Belgium, and other countries.

“ —The fossils demonstrate the time to have been *long*, though we cannot say *how long*. Thus we have generation after generation of shell-fish, that have lived and died on the spots where we find them; very often *demonstrating* the lapse of *many years* for a few perpendicular inches of deposit. In some beds, we have large cold-blooded reptiles, creatures of long life. In others, we have traces of ancient forests, and enormous fossil trees, with concentric rings of structure marking the years of growth. Phenomena of this kind are repeated again and again: so that we have three or four distinct systems of deposit, each formed at a distinct period of time, and each characterized by its peculiar fossils. Coeval with the Tertiary masses, we have enormous lacustrine deposits; sometimes made up of very fine thin laminæ, marking slow tranquil deposits. Among those laminæ, we can find sometimes the leaf-sheddings, and the insects, of successive seasons. Among them also we find almost mountain-masses of the *Indusia tubulata*† and other sheddings of insects, year

* To geologists it is unnecessary; but to many otherwise well-informed persons, it will be gratifying to know the terms in which Prof. Whewell has adverted to the merits of his friend and colleague. “The classification of the rocks of this portion of our island [the Cambrian] to which Prof. Sedgwick has been led,—is the fruit of the vigorous and obstinate struggles of many years, to mould into system a portion of Geology which appeared almost too refractory for the philosopher's hand; and which Prof. Sedgwick grappled with the more resolutely, in proportion as others shrank away from the task, perplexed and wearied—. A series of formations distinguished and reduced to order by [his] indefatigable exertions and wide views.—It has been necessary to employ and improve all the best methods of geological investigation.—” He has traced “the geographical continuity of the strata, almost mile by mile from Cape Wrath to the Land's End.” *Presid. Addr. Geol. Soc. 1839* p. 25.

† These are cylindrical cases formed for its habitation by a six-legged insect-larva, which inhabits ponds and small streams, creeping at the bottom. The cases are constructed of small portions of leaves and stalks