

**INDEX TO THE FOSSIL REMAINS OF
AVES, ORNITHOSAURIA, AND REPTILIA,
FROM THE SECONDARY
SYSTEM OF STRATA; ARRANGED IN THE
WOODWARDIAN MUSEUM OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**

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HARRY GOVIER SEELEY

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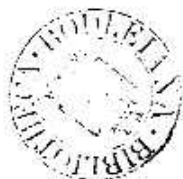
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BY
HARRY GOVIER SEELEY,
OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.



WITH A PREFATORY NOTICE BY
THE REV. ADAM SEDGWICK, LL.D., F.R.S.
WOODWARDIAN PROFESSOR AND SENIOR FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE.

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PREFATORY NOTICE.

WITH a strong emotion of pleasure I write these prefatory remarks to accompany the following Catalogue of the Fossil Reptiles in the Woodwardian Museum. It is, I trust, a prelude to other works of a like kind; but it is in itself one of the scientific results of a labour continued through several years by my friend and assistant, H. G. Seeley, Esq. of St John's College. Of the value of his work, the readers of the Catalogue—those especially who read it in our Geological Museum with the arranged specimens before them—will be the best judges; and that it will be of great use to the academic student I cannot for a moment doubt. He may see the specimens one by one, and side by side with the printed lists; and be enabled in that way to comprehend the evidence on which the several arrangements are founded: and, thereby, he may be led to grasp the anatomical reasoning of a more detailed Catalogue, which will I trust soon follow. The great scientific labour bestowed upon this Catalogue has not been at the cost of the University. I wish the cost to be regarded as a contribution of duty from myself, made in the fifty-second year of my public service as a Professor of the University, when from infirmity of sight and feebleness of health I was utterly incapable of undertaking such a task as my friend and assistant has now very nearly accomplished in my behalf.

This thought, among others of a like kind, has enabled me, through three or four past years, to retain with a clear conscience the Geological Chair of the University, though

disqualified by the infirmities of old age for the discharge of some of its laborious and more active duties.

It would be an idle act of folly to put the Cambridge Fossil Reptiles in comparison with the magnificent Reptile series in the British Museum. And there are several provincial and private Collections which contain important Genera of which we have no specimens; and, it may be, which also contain better illustrations, than we are able to exhibit, of certain Genera that do appear in our Catalogues. Still, we have ample, well arranged, and good materials for the use of the academic student; and in the great abnormal and difficult Sub-class of *Ornithosaurians* (or *Pterosaurians*, should that name be preferred) we have a great series of specimens (derived from the, so-called, "Coprolite Diggings" near Cambridge) of perhaps unrivalled interest in the illustration of the osteological structures and true relations of the Sub-class.

While unavoidably absent from Cambridge, and without access to my notes and books of reference, I am unable to give a history of our Reptile collection in any detailed chronological order. What I now write is a mere sketch, which, should it be thought expedient, may be amplified and reduced to a more exact order in the Introduction to future catalogues which are now in progress.

In the year 1819 I procured a few specimens of the Ichthyosaur from the Lias of Somersetshire, which now appear in our arranged collection; and in the year following some additions were made to the Reptiles of the Lias, during an excursion along the coast of Dorsetshire. In several subsequent years valuable specimens were purchased from Mary Anneing of Lyme Regis, a collector of early celebrity. Among them were two very good specimens of the Ichthyosaur; and a very beautiful Pentacrinite, showing the animal structures in great perfection. All these are now mounted in the Museum.

In 1821 our first Plesiosaur was obtained by purchase at an auction of fossils which had been collected by a naturalist of Lichfield. The Genus was at that time so little under-

stood, that the specimen now mounted in our Museum was put up in the same lot with a very fine portion of the head of a small Ichthyosaur; and the two had been catalogued as portions of one animal! In the same year I collected some good reptilian remains and other fossils from the Lias cliffs near Whitby; among which were two jaws and other characteristic bones of the *Teleosaurus Chapmanni*, now mounted in the Museum.

On revisiting the Yorkshire coast, after the lapse of nearly twenty years, I first saw the *Plesiosaurus macropterus*—now the grand ornament of our Museum—which had, with much labour and skill, been dug out of the neighbouring cliffs by some of the well-known jet-collectors of Whitby. It was purchased at the cost of more than £200 by a subscription, generously headed by Dr Clark, at that time our Professor of Anatomy. But the grandest addition to our Reptile series was made a few years afterwards in the form of a munificent gift from T. Hawkins, Esq.—the naturalist and collector, well known by his published works; and who, by his scientific labours and persevering manual skill has so largely helped to adorn the walls of the British Museum.—This noble series of Reptilian fossils (specimens of *Ichthyosaur* and *Plesiosaur* obtained by him from the Lias quarries of Street, Somersetshire) was, I believe, from the first, destined for the Cambridge Museum. It was however made over without any reserve to the late Master of Trinity College (Dr Whewell); and was then, after a short correspondence with Mr Hawkins, transferred to the Cambridge Geological Museum. The mounting of Mr Hawkins' fossil Reptiles was a rather costly operation. The cost was, however, in a good measure met by a surplus left in my hands from the previous subscription for Mr Image's miscellaneous (but chiefly cretaceous) collection; in which was one specimen of an *Ichthyosaur*, now mounted among the Cambridge fossil Reptiles, which very well exhibits the sternal bones of the Genus.

Several good remains of the *Ichthyosaur* and *Plesiosaur* were secured by me during two visits to the Lias quarries of