

sets are at much higher levels than in the lower part: there is an excellent instance of this at the Sogndal in the above fjord. (5) That deltas are now forming in the fjords below these terraces, as, for example, at Lierdalsoren; where the head of the fjord is becoming a marshy swamp (the valley for a considerable distance behind the village is a level plain), and then a well-marked terrace some 30 feet high, ending abruptly, is met with, and continues for some miles till the rocky bed of the valley rises from beneath it. (6) That considering the coarse materials of which the terraces are not unfrequently composed, one would expect their upper surfaces to slope away (like the Mississippi banks) from the stream. This is not the case. (7) The general arrangement of the terraces, which of course could only be shown by elaborate diagrams, is to my mind quite inexplicable on Colonel Greenwood's theory.

I believe, therefore, that the terraces of the Fraser River, of the Yangma, and of Norway, are all to be attributed to the same cause, viz., the erosion of detritus deposited by a river in a pre-existing valley, when, in consequence of a change in its velocity or volume, it cuts away that which it has previously been depositing or covering.

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#### OBITUARY.

WILHELM VON HAUINGER is no more. He died at the age of 77 years on the 19th of March. His father, Karl Haidinger, was a mineralogist, and for several years Professor of Mining at Schemnitz. The young Haidinger inherited his father's taste for minerals, for he joined the class of the distinguished mineralogist Mohs at Gratz, and subsequently went to Freiberg to complete his training in Mining. Count Breunner, who came to England in 1822, invited the young mineralogist to accompany him. They travelled together through England to Edinburgh, where Mr. Allan, the banker, invited young Haidinger to make a home of his house while employed in translating the Mineralogy of Mohs into English; he accordingly made Mr. Allan's house his head-quarters till 1827. With Mr. Robert Allan, the eldest son of his friend, he travelled during four years through Cornwall, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Italy, and France. During these travels the famous collection, afterwards the property of Mr. Robert Greg, and now in the British Museum, was formed. At this time he brought out his translation of Mohs' treatise, and wrote several Mineralogical papers for the Wernerian Society and the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In 1840 he returned to his native city, Vienna, to devote himself more exclusively to the scientific pursuits he loved. A compendious and valuable treatise on Mineralogy, brought out in 1845, to take the place of an earlier treatise, was continually undergoing revision for new editions; while new investigations of minerals were also appearing under his name. From the foundation of the Geological Institute for the Empire in Vienna, Haidinger was its Director until some two or three years ago, when he retired from the position he had filled so well, with a Ritter's rank and a well-earned pension. For the last twelve years of his life he had given his attention almost exclusively to the subject of meteorites. He leaves behind him a name which Austria may cherish as that of one of her illustrious sons, and which many an Austrian and many a foreigner will remember with warm respect.—Extracted from *Nature*, April 6th.