



BENJAMIN HARRISON.

Born 1837. Died 1921.

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By the death of Benjamin Harrison, of Igham, the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia has lost one of its most distinguished members. His interest in and search for palæolithic implements dated from the period of the Lord Avebury's investigation into Boucher de Perthe's discoveries in France, and his first palæolith was found in 1863. His observations and field work brought him into touch with many prominent scientists, and in 1889 led Prestwick to publish his well known paper on the palæoliths of Igham (*Quar. Journ. Geol. Soc.*, Vol. 45), followed in 1891 by the Darent paper (*op. cit.*, Vol. 47), and in 1892 by the paper on the plateau implements (*Journ. Anthrop. Inst.*, Vol. 21), Prestwick claiming for those rudely chipped flints a much greater antiquity than the palæoliths. This was the beginning of the great "Eolithic" controversy. It was Benjamin Harrison's evidence also which established the "Hill group" of palæoliths, whilst his excavations carried out by the aid of a grant from the British Association, at the Oldbury rock shelters, yielded many palæoliths of late St. Acheul II. date.

In 1895 he was awarded the Lyell fund by the Geological Society, and in later life was the recipient of a Civil List Pension. Although he published but little his work for science in face of great difficulties has left an imperishable name behind, while his personal qualities endeared him to a wide circle of friends who mourn his loss.

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