

THE DISCOVERY OF UPPER SILURIAN ROCKS UNDER THE CHALK  
OF HERTFORDSHIRE.

SIR,—Allow me to call attention to the fact that the discovery of the Upper Silurian Rocks in Hertfordshire under the Upper Cretaceous—an account of which has been given by Mr. Etheridge, F.R.S., in *The Times*<sup>1</sup>—corroborates the views I stated as far back as 1861, in the second edition of 'The Coal-fields of Great Britain,' and again in the third edition of 1873. The little ideal section, by which I intended to show the structure of the central and eastern counties, represents (p. 475) the "Silurian and Cambrian" rocks as underlying the Cretaceous in the part of the country corresponding to Hertfordshire. This ought to convince sceptics that geologists *can* see deeper than other men into a millstone.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF IRELAND,  
HUME STREET, DUBLIN.

EDWARD HULL.

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OBITUARY.

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JOSEPH WILSON LOWRY, F.R.G.S.

BORN OCTOBER 7, 1803. DIED JUNE 15, 1879.

DEATH has just erased another well-known name from the roll of workers on the Geological Survey of Great Britain—that of J. W. Lowry, the eminent engraver, whose maps, sections and plates of fossils form so interesting a part of the records of this important branch of the scientific public service.

Joseph Wilson Lowry was the only son of Wilson Lowry, F.R.S., and Rebecca Lowry, well known as a mineralogist some seventy years ago. His father was the leading architectural and mechanical engraver of his time, and he trained up his son to follow his own pursuits. From his early youth his father's house was the resort of men of high intellectual culture, and his mother's pursuits leading her also to associate with the scientific men of the day, what wonder that young Lowry early imbibed his parents' tastes, and became an ardent lover of all Natural History studies and pursuits, an accomplished draughtsman, and a well-informed scientific man.

His first practical effort was directed to the construction of a model in plaster of the Isle of Wight, geologically coloured, and divided transversely so as to give a section (also geologically coloured) through the centre of the island.

His pursuit of Natural Science led him early in life to become acquainted with John Phillips, at that time Keeper of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society's Museum in York, and later on, when Assistant-General-Secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and when associated with De la Beche on the Geological Survey, or when Professor of Geology in Oxford until his death, Prof. Phillips remained the attached friend of J. W. Lowry.

<sup>1</sup> See also *Geol. Mag.* 1879, for June, pp. 286—289, with a complete list of the fossils determined.