

as in the course of discovery are from time to time added to the common fund. In such of the following Lectures as deal with but the established geologic phenomena, and owe whatever little merit they may possess to the inferences drawn from these, or on the conclusions based upon them, most of the figured illustrations, though not all, will be recognized as familiar: in the two concluding Lectures, on the contrary, they will be found to be almost entirely new. They are contributions, representative of the patient gleanings of years, to the geologic records of Scotland; and exhibit, in a more or less perfect state, no inconsiderable portion of all the forms yet detected in the rocks of her earlier Palæozoic and Secondary floras.

The contents of the book are:—The Palæontological History of Plants; The Palæontological History of Animals; The Two Records, Mosaic and Geological; The Mosaic Vision of Creation; Geology in its bearings on the Two Theologies; The Noachian Deluge; The Discoverable and the Revealed; The Geology of the Anti-Geologists; On the Less-known Fossil Floras of Scotland. Throughout the pages there are interspersed no less than 152 wood-cut illustrations, beautifully executed under the author's own critical eye. It indicates the author's affection for working-men—the rank to which he himself belonged—that this, a scientific book of the first class, and edited with scrupulous care, should be published at so unusually low a price for such works. We trust that it will be found in the library of every intelligent working-man in these Colonies. With the aid of a "Webster's Dictionary," no one need find any difficulty in understanding all the scientific terms which it contains. ✱

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TREES AND THEIR NATURE; OR, THE BUD AND ITS ATTRIBUTES. In a series of Letters to his Son, by ALEXANDER HARVEY, A.M., M.D., Southampton; illustrated with engravings. London: James Nisbet & Co.

We have not yet seen this book, but it has been noticed with peculiar favour by reviewers at home. Dr. Harvey is an esteemed elder in the Presbyterian Church, Southampton, and as it is our purpose to bring before our readers from time to time the literature of our Presbyterian Church, we make no apology for introducing to them the following extracts and critical remarks from the *English Presbyterian Messenger*:—

The return of April to us, with its buds and blossoms, makes such a subject of speculation seasonable; and as trees, whether in the garden, the field, or the forest, are universal favourites, we do not doubt that our readers will be obliged to us for bringing before them some of the views held respecting them by one who has loved them much, and studied them long with the observant eye of a genial naturalist, and the profound reflection of a true philosopher.

The common and almost universally held notion of a tree is stated by Dr. Harvey, thus—

"The common notion of a tree is that it is an *individual*, in the same sense that a dog or a horse is; and it certainly appears to be such. It is assumed that the trunk and roots, and branches, the leaves and flowers, and fruit and buds, which form component parts of every tree, go to make up one and the self-same plant, in like manner as the bones and flesh, the nerves and bloodvessels, the heart and lungs, the head and trunk and limbs of a dog, do truly form the parts of one and the self-same individual animal. Doubtless, that is the common belief. A tree is regarded as having the same sort of individuality or personality that you or I have."

Dr. Harvey's own notion of a tree is very different from this:—

"In my view it is not an individual in the proper or scientific sense of the term, but, on the contrary, a *body corporate*. Take an oak at Midsummer, in full leaf, and in its full vigour. It is neither more nor less than a collection, an aggregate, a corporation of living and growing but separate and distinct oak plants, the production of the current year, and likewise of the *dead* remains of a still larger number of individual plants of the same