

This narrative raises the question, which is applicable not only to the Kingston boys but to other assailants of the Survey, whether their ire was excited by the little light which they saw "through the cracks," or by their want of more light on the subject. This is, in some sense, an educational question; and leads to a remark on the circulation of scientific reports, which we think has throughout the United States and British Colonies been greatly mismanaged. Such reports, got up as attractively as possible, should be placed in the hands of the trade, with a fair commission on their sale; and the gratuitous distribution should be limited to public persons and institutions. In this way a much greater and better circulation would be secured, the reports would be more extensively read and appreciated, and would be more accessible to those who really require them, and a large portion of the expense of printing might be saved. This course has been successfully pursued by the Geological Survey of Great Britain. It has also, we are glad to observe, been adopted in the case of the decades of Canadian fossils; and we can scarcely doubt that these will eventually be found even remunerative as a publishing speculation, though the sale may be too slow to enable them to be profitably issued by private enterprise.

J. W. D.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—The Meeting of this Society, on the 5th January, was occupied principally with Canadian subjects: a paper, by Principal Dawson, on the "Devonian Plants of Canada," and one by Mr. T. Sterry Hunt, on some points of Chemical Geology.

The paper on Devonian plants related chiefly to the observations made by the writer last summer in Gaspé, which enable him to describe two species of a new genus, to which he gives the name *Psilophyton*. They are lycopodiaceous plants, with many dichotomous branchlets and rudimentary leaves, allied in some respects to the modern genus *Psilotum*, but springing from a horizontal rhizome, similar to that of some ferns, and having the branchlets rolled up circinate in veneration. Plants of this kind in fragments, have been recognized previously in the Devonian rocks of Scotland and the continent of Europe, but were referred to sea-weeds, &c. The Gaspé specimens, for the first time, enable their true