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Division of Palaeontology

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Separates

[From the PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY
Vol. XXIII, Mar. 2, 1887.]

ON THE USE OF THE NAME TACONIC.

BY JULES MARCOU.

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If priority is to be adhered to strictly and above all other considerations, it is in natural history; for, without it, zoology, botany, palaeontology, mineralogy and lithology, would become a confused and almost valueless mass of documents. All *savants* without regard to nationality, schools, or personal inclination, now place priority first; and a naturalist who disregards it is sure one day or another, to be severely judged. Justice requires it, classifications require it, museums require it, libraries require it, bibliographies require it; and, finally, progress of science, will be impossible without it.

Questions of priority are matters of printed facts, and the greater caution and exactness are required to establish them on a solid basis. Often, I will say too often, an author unintentionally and with great honesty of purpose, thinking the matter of little consequence, quotes loosely and out of date, inexact synonymy, or gives precedence to publications and names, which are in fact posterior and consequently placed in wrong positions.

The memoir of Mr. Walcott, "Second Contribution to the Studies on the Cambrian Faunas of North America" (Bulletin U. S. Geol. Surv., No. 30, Washington, 1886), is too important, and he is too desirous "to establish," as he says, "on a firm stratigraphic and palaeontologic basis, the Cambrian system of the continent," not

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