

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Acting-Editor of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST :

Having been asked by several members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club why I did not reply to the bitter attack made upon my "Synopsis of the Geology of Canada," published with the sanction of the Editor, and without any opportunity on my part of replying thereto in the same May number of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, I desire to state that whilst I did feel strongly inclined to reply to it in the same strain, and point out the errors and mistakes it contains as well as the evident motives for the words of the writer, who signs himself "H. F." [who, by-the-by, from his initials, is evidently not even a member of the Club, yet, was allowed to use our official organ as a medium] and attacks one who, in the course of his geological researches in the field and studies in the department has been compelled to state what he believes to be the truth regarding the geological age of certain strata in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick about which a great deal has been written by a certain writer whose initials are also "H. F." and presumably refer to the same person. These writings, as well as that of "R. W. E." in the January issue of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST for 1900, and an unsigned article in a local journal, all bearing on the same subject and evidently inspired from the same quarter, may be placed along with that "very large mass of geological writing of the present time which is utterly worthless for any of the higher purposes of science, which might quite safely and profitably, both as regards time and temper, be left unread." I do not wish to enter into any personal controversy as that bitter attack would seem to lead. I merely desire to point out facts and natural conclusions that we can draw from them. I had much rather not had to write this letter intended for the members of the Club, who are certainly entitled to consideration in the matter.

After over twenty years' experience in chronological geology in Canada, I have brought out my "synopsis" in the interests of geology in Canada and in accordance with the facts which I have examined for myself during nearly two decades in the Geological Survey Department—not with any preconceived notions or ideas to bolster up, nor yet with any vain theories of mine to uphold.

I do not hesitate to stand by the position I have taken in my "Synopsis" as regards points in nomenclature. As regards nicety of diction and literary skill, I do not claim any.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) H. M. AML.

Ottawa, June 22nd, 1901.