

DEATH OF DR. BUCKLAND.

The Rev. Dr. Buckland, Dean of Westminster, but better and more widely known from his works on the science of geology, died at Clapham on Thursday last, the 14th inst. Unhappily the intellectual death of Dr. Buckland dates, not from the year 1836, but from some six or seven years ago, since which time a cloud has come over his once active mind and he has spent the evening of his life in confinement. He was born at Axminster, in the year 1784, and received his early education at Winchester School, whence he moved to Oxford in 1801. He took his degree of B.A., in 1805, and was elected Fellow of his College in 1808. In 1813 he was appointed Reader in Mineralogy, and in 1818 Reader in Geology, to the University. The geological museum at Oxford owes its chief excellence to Dr. Buckland's industry. In 1820 he delivered before the University of Oxford a lecture, which was afterwards published under the title of *Vindiciae Geologicae; or, the Connection of Geology with Religion Explained*. The object of this lecture was to show that the study of Geology, so far from being irreligious or atheistic in its consequences, has a tendency to confirm the evidences of natural religion, and that the facts developed by it are consistent with the accounts of the creation and deluge as recorded in the Book of Genises.

In 1825 Dr. Buckland vacated his fellowship by accepting the living of Stoke Charity, near Whitchurch, Hants; in the same year he was promoted to a canonry in the cathedral of Christ Church, and married Mary, the eldest daughter of Mr. Benjamin Morland, of Sheepstead-house, Abingdon. In 1836 he published his *Bridgewater Treatise*, entitled *Geology and Mineralogy, Considered with Reference to Natural Theology*. The *Transactions of the Geological Society* contain a variety of contributions from his pen. Among them perhaps the most practically valuable is his *Description of the South-Western Coal District of England*, which after standing the test of thirty years is appealed to by all scientific persons as a standard work. In 1847 he was appointed a trustee of the British Museum, and for two years took the greatest interest in arranging and increasing the geological collection there. He rendered material assistance in the formation of the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn-street.

In 1845 Dr. Buckland was preferred by the late Sir Robert Peel to the Deanery of Westminster, vacated by the promotion of Dr. Samuel Wilberforce to the episcopal bench. He set an example to other cathedral bodies by facilitating the admission of the public to view the monuments and other objects of historic interest contained in the Abbey Church. He also exerted himself as a sanitary reformer, and especially in the endeavor to secure the benefits of pure water for the metropolis; with this object in view, he wrote, he spoke, and preached incessantly while allowed the use of *mens sana in corpore sano*. As a theologian Dr. Buckland never distinguished himself. The Deanery of Westminster has often proved a stepping-stone for a bishopric; Dr. Buckland's two immediate predecessors—Dr. Wilberforce and Dr. Tait—were promoted respectively to the sees of Oxford and Ely.

EXPERIMENTS WITH CAST IRON.—The War Department of the British Government is about to institute a series of experiments with cast iron, embracing the following inquiries:—Chemical analysis, specific gravity, tenacity, tension, transverse strain, compressibility, impact and elastic. The Department wishes to secure cast iron of such a quality as will best suit the purpose of gun casting and these experiments with every variety of strong cast iron that can be procured. Iron masters willing to submit their pig iron to such an investigation are invited to send samples to Woolwich, to be tested. This, we think, is an excellent method to discover and obtain the best of pig iron. The experiments are to be tabulated and published.

HIGH CRANBERRY.—This shrub, growing in the swamps around us, can be readily cultivated in our gardens as our currant, and is worth more, certainly than the gooseberry. It bears rich clusters of scarlet berries, and as an ornamental tree or shrub, is far preferable in gardens to hundreds of those of foreign growth, that are obtained with great expense, and raised with a great deal of trouble. Beside, the fruit makes a rich, delicious sauce, preserve, tart, or pie, and is invaluable in the pastry department. It can be raised where the common cranberry would fail and as it is easily transplanted, or can be raised from cutting, we are surprised that it is not more cultivated. We hope to see it generally introduced into our gardens.—*Granite Farmer*.