

his mind was active, and as late as our last number (March,) we published a contribution to science from him, as the result of his recent microscopic researches. Feebleness of health prevented his being present at the meeting of the American Association at Albany in July 1856; but the Association in view of his high attainments and valuable researches elected him President for the following year,—an honor well merited; for few men in the land have exerted a wider and more beneficial influence on the science of the country.

Prof. Bailey, although a proficient also in chemistry, mineralogy, and botany, had been especially devoted to microscopic research, and with the exception of what Ehrenberg has done, the microscopic geology or “micro-geology” of this country has been mainly worked out by him. His first communication to this Journal, was published in 1837, and although chemical, it indicated that delicacy of manipulation which fitted him for microscopic researches. It related to the use of grasshoppers’ legs as a substitute for frogs in galvanic experiments. In volume xxxv. (1839,) commence his papers on fossil Infusoria, which were continued through many of the following volumes, down to the current year, and are too well known and appreciated to require remark at this time. The Continent along its Atlantic and Pacific borders and over its interior has passed under his microscope, and delighted him with many beautiful forms of life which had never before greeted a human eye. And lately, the ocean’s bottom in the Atlantic to a depth of 1200 feet, and about the North Pacific to 16000 feet, has developed wonderful facts before his investigations. Prof. Bailey has also done a vast deal towards raising the standard of microscope manufacture through his discriminating use of tests, and his influence. His scale for microscopic slides by which the positions of the invisible specimens are exactly noted, is a happy thought well carried out. In these and various other ways, microscopy is vastly indebted to his labors. Mr. Bailey at his death was Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology in the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. His life without reproach, his gentleness and modesty, his earnestness for truth rather than self, his untiring energy even when his physical system seemed to be dissolving away from his spirit, make a character that excites love as well as admiration.