

companion of Lord Milton in his journey across North America, had kindly undertaken to read the present paper, or rather extracts from it, accompanied with some observations of his own, which appeared necessary in order to render the subject more intelligible to the meeting.

The following paper was then read by Dr. Cheadle:—
on Feb. 27. 1871.

- 1.—On the "*Benches*," or *Valley Terraces*, of *British Columbia*. By
MATT. B. BEGBIE, Chief Justice of British Columbia.

THE paper was described by Dr. Cheadle as being a report compiled by Mr. Chief Justice Begbie, at the request of the Governor of British Columbia, in answer to questions put by the Rev. W. Robinson, of Cambridge, and transmitted through the Colonial Minister. The extracts from the report read by Dr. Cheadle were as follow:—

I have received and perused the despatch from the Secretary of State to yourself, dated the 21st June, ult., enclosing a letter from the Reverend William Robinson, dated 13th June, 1870, to which you wish me to reply.

I regret very much that I am ignorant of all save the first principles of geology, in fact of all except some quasi-technical expressions which everybody knows by rote, and which probably every unscientific person must use inaccurately. But at your request I will state as well as I can what I have seen.

The benches in question are so curious that they must immediately attract the attention of the most unobservant. Accordingly I took occasion to remark upon them in a report of my first circuit in British Columbia (in March and April, 1859), addressed to Governor Douglas. It will be seen there that I attributed the "*benches*" to the same origin as the "*mountain roads*" of Glen Roy, to which Mr. Robinson refers. But the plateaux on Fraser River being often much interrupted, they in many places far more nearly resemble in appearance the plateaux which were the scene of the battle of Rivoli, mountains, river, and all; the Fraser River is, however, a much stronger river than the Adige.

In 1859 I had only seen the "*benches*" on Fraser River or its immediate vicinity up to a distance of fourteen or fifteen miles above Lilloett. Subsequent observations, and a further acquaintance with the country, do not induce me to change the opinions expressed in the above mentioned report, though some of the details are very inaccurate.

It was perhaps scarcely possible for any person who has never seen Fraser River, or obtained an accurate description of it, if any verbal description can be accurate, to form an idea of its banks.