
DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AMATEUR
GEOLOGIST AND PALÆONTOLOGIST.—S. A. MILLER.

On December 18th, 1897, HON. DR. SAMUEL A. MILLER, of Cincinnati, Ohio, died of cancer of the liver, after a three weeks' illness, at the age of 60 years. Although a prominent member of the Cincinnati bar, with a large and lucrative practice, as well as a politician and public speaker in the front rank of his party, yet he found time to so devote himself to scientific research that his published works on palæontology are more voluminous and contain more original descriptions and figures of new forms than are to be found in those of many an eminent professional palæontologist. We learn from the Cincinnati *Enquirer* that "every morning he arose with the dawn and worked on his geological books until 9 or 10 o'clock; he attended to his law practice during the rest of the day, and early evening found him at work at his books again."

Dr. Miller's first great work was "American Palæozoic Fossils," published in 1861, undertaken with a view to smooth the way of the student of palæontology by furnishing a complete index of original descriptions of North American palæozoic fossils. This unique work was in use by all palæozoic palæontologists, by whom it was considered indispensable, until replaced by his later and more comprehensive work "North American Geology and Palæontology," published in 1889. The latter work, together with its appendixes, published in 1892 and 1897 respectively, contain descriptions of all the published American palæozoic genera and an index of all the species, filling 793 octavo pages and illustrated by 1,457 generic illustrations consisting of about 3,000 separate figures. Such a work in itself should be considered a proud record for the life work of one amateur—but we find the work of this man appearing in the geological reports of five States of the American Union, viz., Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin, for which he figured and described about 800 species of fossils, the greater part crinoids, besides figuring and describing about 300 species of fossils, a part in the Cincinnati Journal of Science (1874-75) and the remainder in its successor, the Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History. In 1881 he published a review of the bibliography, etc., of North American Mesozoic and Cainozoic Palæontology, covering 338 pages.

He was one of the leading founders of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History; a graduate in Arts, Law and Philosophy of Ohio University and the deserving recipient of academic and other honors from many sources. His great integrity, benevolence, love of justice in public and private affairs and his eminence as a public speaker and jurist, are alluded to at great length by the Cincinnati daily papers.

W. R. B.
