

Miscellaneous Gibbons flora check: but would man
 if he had entered on the stage in the Tertiary
 era have found the world less fitted for his
 comfort than now, or less beautiful. Cer-
 tainly not in the polar regions or in central
 Europe if you consider Beer's Flora arctica
 & the paleontology of regions farther south
 in Middle Tertiary times

And here I must end my lucubrations on your
 admirable volume which I was recommending
 yesterday to M. Dupont who is just made
 keeper of the new National Museum at
 Brussels & he said he should get it immediately
 Considering the vast range of subjects of which
 you have treated I know of no modern work
 on the geology of any country in which the author
 is entitled to speak with authority so much
 authority as an observer, naturalist, chemist
 & mineralogist.

I am going off on a tour of exploration of the
 crag of Essex & Suffolk to see how far I can
 agree with Messrs Prestwich & others as to
 most of the extinct shells of the Red Crag
 being derivative or washed out of the Coralline
 Crag. I suspect they are pushing this

notion much too far

In looking back at my comments on your page 566 I have felt the same difficulty in Scotland where the Metamorphic Silurian of the Highlands (see my Elements 6th ed p 188) comes in contact with the Old Red (see junction of clay-slate & No 4 fig 62) The strata No 4 are sometimes vertical for a thickness of several thousand feet & yet I believe the older rocks of the Graupians to which the clay-slate belongs seemed to ~~form the~~ indicate exactly where there was once the boundary of the Old Red sea.

Can we explain the high inclination & curvature of the newer beds by supposing a great succession of lateral thrusts which need not have much altered the ridges of the older Metamorphic formations. Nothing is more difficult than to conceive where vertical beds once extended horizontally for if flattened they would sometimes reach so far beyond their present limits.

Mr Henry Smith recommended me to read Dose's Prographic Geology which I have done with much profit though I do not always agree

with him. David Forbes essay on Chemical
Geology 1868. Journal of Chemical Society June
& other papers by him controverting Henry Hunt
come much nearer my views & those you have
adopted on trap & plutonic rocks & metamorphism.
I regret very much that Hunt should have
theorised so much without having studied some
region of active volcanoes. His arguments
would prove that most of the trachytic lavas
containing quartz even those of historical date
were of aqueous origin

Believe me

my dear Dawson

our next trip Y^{rs}

Chas Lyell