

a part, and not the whole system of Kaims. In Ireland the Esker systems extend sometimes for over a hundred miles, but are modified by local circumstances. On low ground they are well defined ridges, which break into *Shoal-eskers* (consisting of irregular mounds and short ridges), crossing high ground, but again becoming well defined when the high ground is passed. If a hill occurs, the Esker will be either deflected and form a *Fringe-esker* round it, or there will be a break in the Esker system, as it ends on or near one side of the hill, but sets on again at the other side.

The Esker-drift seems to be *washed* Boulder-drift, or 'Post-drift Gravels;' and in sections which expose the two kinds a well-marked line of demarcation will be observed between them, which would seem to prove that they are different kinds of Drift. Of course if the 'Post-drift Gravels' were formed by the washing of the Boulder-drift, we shall not always find the latter entirely washed, as sometimes the washing power would not have been strong enough; and in these places the two kinds of Drift would seem to blend one into another. This is not the proper place to examine the 'Post-drift Gravels;' but where they are well developed they always have a marked boundary. In the basal beds of an Esker, or in an Esker in which the gravel is unstratified, blocks will be found that are striated and polished; but this does not prove that they are of the same age as the Boulder-clay; since these blocks may have been polished before they were removed from the Boulder-clay, and were not afterwards rolled enough to obliterate the old marks. That this is the case seems likely, as the marks on them are not nearly as fresh as if they were taken direct from a bank of Boulder-drift.

I would suggest to observers that they should trace *Kaims* or *Esker Systems* across a wide expanse of country, and that they should carefully note the different changes that occur;—what effect high land has on the Esker Systems; what is the height of the land on which they are in well defined ridges; what the height when they break into Shoals; when they break into shoals, is the Drift 'Post-drift Gravels' or Boulder-drift, denuded into ridges and mounds, or partly one and partly the other? They should also note carefully all junctions between the two kinds of Drift. The 'Post-drift Gravels' sometimes form a gently undulating country, and do not break into ridges; and an observer ought to be careful not to confound it with a much older gravelly Drift which underlies the Boulder-clay (the Drift of the country before the Glacial Period), for which I would propose the name '*Preglacial Drift.*'—Yours, &c.,

G. H. KINAHAN.

EXELISSA v. KILVERTIA.

To the Editors of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.

MR. LYCETT* has given to *Cerithia* having an entire aperture the generic title of *Kilvertia*; and has referred *C. strangulatum*, D'Arch.,

* Supplementary Monograph, Moll. Great Oolite, p. 93. 1863.

and three new species to that genus. *C. strangulatum*, D'Arch., had been previously used as a type-species by Piette* for his new genus *Exelissa*.† The characteristics of the genus, as pointed out by Piette, are—Shell scalariform; aperture orbicular, entire; last whorl cylindrical, contracted at the base, with a tendency to separate from the axis. *Kilvertia* is therefore a synonym of *Exelissa*. All the shells of this genus, which is allied to *Rissoa* and *Scalaria*, are very small; they occur in the Inferior Oolite and upwards to the Great Oolite.—Yours, &c.,

RALPH TATE, F.G.S.

COLONEL G. GREENWOOD has favoured us with a letter on the improbability of the existence of real Meteoritic stones. The study of the subject of Meteorites in a good Cyclopædia, or in Somerville's 'Connexion of the Sciences,' or, better still, if possible, in the many papers in the 'Philosophical Magazine,' and an examination of the specimens themselves in the British Museum, will serve our correspondent far better than putting his doubts on paper.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FRANCE will hold its Extraordinary Meeting this year at Marseilles, commencing on the 9th of October. Excursions will be made to localities where a considerable portion of the Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, and Tertiary formations can be studied. It is also purposed to examine the porphyritic masses of Esterel (Toulon). The well-known geologists MM. Coquand and Matheron will act as local guides.

AMONG THE PRIZE-QUESTIONS proposed by the Imperial Academy of Sciences, Vienna, at the Anniversary Meeting, May 30, 1864, the following relates to Geology. The Academy requires 'a precise mineralogical and, as far as necessary, a chemical investigation of the greatest number of Eruptive Rocks occurring in the Secondary deposits of the Austrian Empire, and a parallel of these rocks with known older and younger eruptive rocks of Austria and other countries.' The papers are to be transmitted to the Academy before December 31, 1866; the name of the prize-holder is to be proclaimed at the Anniversary Meeting in May 30 of the following year. The prize is 200 Imperial ducats in gold (about £100 sterling).

A BED OF COAL, said to be eight feet thick, and supposed to be of Oolitic age, has been found in the bed of a stream running into the Kawa-kawa River, in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand. The coal burns freely, with a bright flame, very little smoke, and scarcely any residue.—*Daily Southern Cross*, Auckland, N.Z., April 30, 1864.

* Bull. Soc. Géol. France, 2^e sér. vol. xviii. p. 14. 1861.

† From 'Εφέλισσα, I unfold.