

OBITUARY.

SAMUEL A. MILLER.

BORN AUGUST 28, 1837.

DIED DECEMBER 18, 1897.

THIS well-known American writer, who was born at Coolville, Athens Co., O., Aug. 28, 1837, and died at Cincinnati, O., Dec. 18, 1897, in his 61st year, was a man, as was said in his funeral oration, "singularly self-poised and self-centered," and no admirer of British palæontologists, nor, for the matter of that, a follower of any leaders in science, in his own country or elsewhere. Yet palæontologists of every land owe him their thanks for the useful work that will long keep his name in memory—"North American Geology and Palæontology," that invaluable guide to the scattered literature on the fossils of North America, and not least to the prolific labours of Mr. Miller himself. Scientific workers, too, may, not without advantage to themselves, respect a man who recked naught of authority, but sought out for himself that which he believed to be good. In these days of milk-and-water compliment and pusillanimous log-rolling, it is bracing for a writer who thinks no little of his work to be told suddenly in broad American that he is a "shallow pretender, overgrown with self-conceit." Mr. Miller's flat contradictions were, moreover, not to be ignored, for they were based on actual observation, usually made on the fine specimens of his own large collection. Had Mr. Miller not been a busy lawyer, one, too, with a high reputation among his colleagues, an active citizen and politician, and for a while the editor of a weekly paper, he would doubtless have found time to obtain that wider knowledge and deeper grounding in the natural sciences, the want of which did so much to cause his work to be regarded with suspicion and disfavour even in cases where it was deserving of better treatment. What Mr. Miller lacked in technical training, he made up by his energy. He was one of the founders of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, and for several years edited the *Journal* of that body; also during 1874-5 he edited and published the *Cincinnati Quarterly Journal of Science*. He undertook palæontological work for the States of Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin. His great catalogue of North American fossils underwent evolution through three very different editions, and continued to be brought up to date by appendices. We learn that he had in preparation a monograph on the Cephalopoda, the manuscript of which is left in a nearly completed state. The Ohio University, of which he was a graduate, conferred upon him in 1893 the degree of Ph.D.

Sturdy, both morally and physically, with a pronounced individuality reflected in his strongly marked face and determined mouth, Samuel A. Miller was not a man to pass through or to quit this world unnoticed. His grave is appropriately marked by a rough log of fossil wood from Arizona on a massive pedestal of New Hampshire granite.

F. A. B.