

from that gentleman specimens from the shales of West Cramlington and other places since June, 1865. Both gentlemen are personally unknown to me, though it is possible that they may have been of the number of those who submitted fossils to my inspection after a lecture I previously delivered at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

RICHD. OWEN.

*SPIRIFER CUSPIDATUS AND SYRINGOTHYRIS TYPA.*

*To the Editor of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.*

SIR,—Absence from home and other causes compel me to defer my reply to Dr. Carpenter's and Mr. Davidson's papers on the structure and histology of "*Syringothyris typa*" for a short time longer, when I shall be able, from ample materials in my possession, to show clearly that it is no other than *Spirifer cuspidatus*, as represented by imperforate and tubeless specimens.

WILLIAM KING.

BELMONT, near GALWAY,  
July 8th, 1867.

THE CLAY-BED NEAR STANNAGE, DERBYSHIRE.

*To the Editor of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.*

SIR,—I went up to Stannage the other day for the purpose of determining whether the bed of clay, seen by Mr. Binney, and mentioned by Mr. Maw in his paper in the June number of your MAGAZINE (page 247), was a member of the Carboniferous system or a more recent deposit. There can be no doubt that it is the former. A small pit has recently been sunk close to Spitewinter in order to get clay, it may be some fifteen or twenty feet deep, but as it was partly filled up with water I had no proper means of ascertaining the exact depth. The upper part exposes a section of thin shales, beneath are sandy clays and clay, and lastly, a thin seam of coal, which appears to have been only just touched. There is a good deal of clay under the peat in the immediate neighbourhood, and it has been dug into somewhat extensively still further to the west near the old Cupola marked on the Ordnance Map. When I have time I will endeavour to find out, if possible, the boundaries of the deposit; immediately above it, to the north, is the fine escarpment of what I conclude to be the first grit. May not the shales above-mentioned correspond with those spoken of by Messrs. Hull and Green in their paper on the Millstone Grit, in No. 79 of Geol. Journ. They say "shales, with a thin coal at the bottom, west of Buxton, lie below the Rough Rock." A thick bed of shales has also been exposed by a landslip on the north bank of the river Hipper, below Catholic hill, on the north-west side of Stannage. I may mention that the grit escarpment of Stannage has every appearance of having been an old sea-worn cliff; it has hollows or rock-pools in its face or on its summit; the escarpment is on the south-west side of the hill; on the other side the slope is more gradual, and three or four