

than the summit of Little Haldon. Such a stream is the Lemon or Leman, which rises on the east side of Dartmoor at a level of about 1200 feet above the sea. The ancestor of this stream must have carved its channel out of the ancient plain of Eocene deposits; and it is suggested that the valley of the Teign estuary is a portion of this ancient valley, which has survived all subsequent changes, except that of being cut down to modern base-levels.

The change which led to the diversion of the Upper Teign into this more southern valley is attributed to the later earth-movements, which gave a southerly tilt to the whole region, and a still greater local tilt owing to the formation of the Bovey syncline. This tilt would increase the velocity and erosive power of the stream which was then carving out the valley west of the Haldon Hills, and as it gradually cut down to a lower base-level, the little affluents which formed its head-waters would cut back northward into the watershed which separated them from the eastward course of the Upper Teign. It is supposed that the portion of the Teign Valley which lies between Dunsford and Clifford Bridge was formed by one of these affluents, and that it was deepened till the separating ridge at its head was reduced to a col or pass leading from the one valley into the other. A flood or the damming-up of the river by a landslip might send down the waters of the Upper Teign, and once this was accomplished the capture and diversion of the Upper Teign would be permanent.

The theory of the capture of one river by another has been accepted as an explanation of similar difficulties in the case of other rivers, and its application to the course of the Teign furnishes an intelligible explanation of the facts. The author thinks that some other river-courses and geographical features in Devon can be explained on the same theory of an easterly incline modified by a subsequent southerly tilt.

OBITUARY.

WE regret to record the death of Lieut.-General CHARLES ALEXANDER McMAHON, F.R.S., F.G.S., who died at his residence, 20, Nevern Square, South Kensington, S.W., Sunday, 21st February, 1904, in his 74th year. He was a member of Council of the Geological Society of London, and was the author of numerous papers on geology. We hope to publish a notice of General McMahon's geological work in our next number.

WE have also to notice with sorrow the death of a valued friend and fellow-worker in America, Professor CHARLES EMERSON BEECHER, Ph.D., Professor of Palæontology and Curator of the Geological Collections in Yale University, who died from heart-failure on Sunday, 14th February, in his 52nd year. He was one of the Editors of the *American Geologist* and the author of numerous papers on palæontology. We trust to be able suitably to record his lifework in our next issue.