

the cause was an earthquake. The night was quite calm at the time." The same paper states that inhabitants of neighbouring villages also felt the shock. Can there have been any connexion between this wave and the one felt in Paris?—See *Geol. Mag.*, 1st Oct., p. 479.

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## OBITUARY.

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G. W. FEATHERSTONHAUGH, Esq., F.R.S., F.G.S., British Consul at Havre, died early in October, aged 80 years. In 1827 he was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London, and in the same year he communicated a short account of an ancient excavation in the Chalk at Heigham Hill, near Norwich, which had been discovered in digging a well; afterwards, in 1829, when in America, he sent a paper on the series of rocks in the United States, published in the same (1st) vol. of the Proceedings of the Geological Society. His reputation as a geologist consists mainly in his publications on American Geology. He was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society in 1809. In 1831 and 1832 he conducted the "Monthly American Journal of Geology and Natural Science," a periodical in which were published a great number of interesting geological papers, very many of which, including an "Epitome of the progress of Natural Science," were written by Mr. Featherstonhaugh. In 1835 he published a geological report on the Elevated Country between the Missouri and Red Rivers; and in 1836 a report of a geological reconnaissance made in 1835 from Washington, by Green Bay, &c. In 1844 he read a paper before the British Association at York, "on the Excavation of the Rocky Channels of Rivers by the Recession of their Cataracts;" the author, in travelling through North America, had noticed that at some points of the course of all the great rivers there was either a cataract, or evidence of the former existence of one, in rapids now obstructing navigation; and on comparing the quantity of water in the rivers now, with certain marks which appeared to indicate the quantity which formerly flowed in their channels, he came to the conclusion that the volume of water was formerly much greater than at present, and that such a state of things was necessary for the excavation of their rocky channels, which he considers to have been effected by the recession of their cataracts. Mr. Featherstonhaugh thought it possible that even in our own island we are not precluded from supposing that the same causes may have excavated river-channels, when England was a portion of a great continent.—H.B.W.

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