

know the locality; but does it follow that because the river has once flowed at a higher level, therefore the subsequent degradation of the surface is the work of the river?"

Without discussing Mr. Fisher's views at length, we would beg to call his attention in the present instance to the fact that between the gravel at the 300-foot level and the present river, there exist enormous deposits of gravel and brick-earth at all intermediate heights. From this we infer, as we stated in our paper, "that the river deepened its bed gradually, and that since the Medway flowed at the 300-foot level, no agents except rain and rivers (and possibly river ice) can have been working at the denudation of the rocks contained within the basin of the Medway" (p. 464). During the time that this was going on, at all events, the valley could not have been excavated by an ice-sheet, although several facts mentioned by us point to the existence of ice, but on a much smaller scale than what is suggested by Mr. Fisher, and with different results. (See pp. 458, 465, 469.)

Your obedient servants,

WILLIAM TOPLEY,
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OFFICE,
Nov. 10, 1866.

CLEMENT LE NEVE FOSTER,
BREAGE, NEAR HELSTON, CORNWALL.

ON FAULTS IN THE DRIFT-GRAVEL AT HITCHIN.

To the Editor of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.

SIR, — In the last number of the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society there is a paper by Mr. Salter, on some faults in the Drift Gravel at Hitchin, in which the author has expressed himself I think rather more decidedly than the facts of the case warrant.

Mr. Salter mentions two sections: The first is seen in a large chalk-pit immediately to the south of the Hitchin Station, and shows Chalk capped by a mixed mass of gravel, sand, clay and brick earth. As far as I could make anything out of this confused mass, the different members seemed to lie in lenticular-shaped beds, and not to have any definite order of super-position; indeed, I could neither here nor elsewhere in Herts. and Buckinghamshire establish any subdivisions among the drifts that were of the least value, and came at last to put the whole together under the comprehensive name of Boulder-beds. To return to the section: these Boulder-beds rest on a very uneven surface of Chalk, and my impression was, that the inequalities at the junction had been produced by denudation, or by water percolating through the gravel; and, though I paid several visits to the spot, I never saw anything that looked to me like a fault. Far be it from me to deny there are faults, but I do think that, if they had been as palpable as Mr. Salter represents them to be, they would not have escaped my notice. With regard to the other section, close to a bridge, crossing the railway a little further to the south, I dare speak more positively, for I feel almost certain that the gravel here lies in a large pipe in the Chalk. Do the other faults affecting the Drift, of which we hear from time to time, rest on such evidence as this?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. H. GREEN.

116, DODSWORTH ROAD, BARNSLEY. Nov. 16th, 1866.