

method which he adopted for the analysis of meteoric stones, and which he described in detail for the benefit of others engaged in similar work, was one which it is to be feared could appeal to few who were not possessed of his own skill and infinite patience. For many years previous to his retirement from the Museum he had devoted much thought to the problem of the classification of minerals, and with his usual thoroughness had critically examined every system which had been entertained during the last 200 years. During the last year of his life he had made some effort towards the completion of his task, and it is to be hoped that it may be possible to prepare for publication something of interest, at any rate from a historical point of view, from the manuscript which he has left behind.

The Mineralogical Society owes Fletcher a special debt of gratitude for the work which he did on its behalf. As one of its earliest members, its President from 1885 to 1888, and its Secretary for more than twenty years afterwards, he worked indefatigably first to establish the Society on a firm basis, and then to promote its interests.

Loyalty to friends and to any institutions with which he was or had been connected was one of the guiding principles of Fletcher's life. After he had attained to an assured position he was ever ready to help those from whom he may have received benefit in his youth, and the school and college in which he was educated. No one in trouble ever appears to have appealed to him in vain. Partly as a consequence of this open-handed generosity and partly, no doubt, from choice, his home life was always a very quiet and simple one. He was twice married, first to Miss Agnes Ward Holme, who died in 1915, leaving one daughter, and afterwards to her sister Edith. His wife and daughter survive him.

G. T. PRIOR.

James Reeve, F.G.S.

BORN MAY 12, 1833.

DIED DECEMBER 19, 1920.

MR. JAMES REEVE, F.G.S., Consulting Curator of the Norwich Castle Museum, died at Norwich on December 19, 1920, in which city he was born on May 12, 1833.

The 27th Annual Report of the Committee of the Norfolk and Norwich Museum for 1851 records that James Reeve, Assistant, had been appointed Curator in succession to Mr. H. J. Bellars, who had resigned. This appointment he held with conspicuous success until 1894, when the collections were transferred to the Town Council of Norwich and housed in the splendid buildings known as the Norwich Castle Museum, which was opened to the public on October 23, 1894, by the Duke and Duchess of York (the present King and Queen). Mr. James Reeve received the appointment as Curator under the Town Council, and by his energy and unrivalled knowledge

of local art was able to bring the collections up to a high state of efficiency. He retired in 1910 from active duties, and was appointed Consulting Curator, which appointment he held at the time of his death.

The account books of the Norfolk and Norwich Museum show that James Reeve commenced his duties at this Museum on Monday, November 8, 1847, so that he was officially connected with the Museum for seventy-three years—surely a record!

In the early years of his life he appears to have been a keen collector of land and freshwater molluscs from the lanes, woods, meadows, and streams in the neighbourhood of Norwich. He also worked assiduously for thirty years collecting shells from a Crag Pit he discovered at Bramerton, near Norwich, a locality already made classic by the work of Searles V. Wood and Samuel Woodward. His collection from this pit is one of the greatest treasures of the Norwich Museum, and he was very proud of one of his rare finds being determined by S. V. Wood as a new species and named in his honour *Odostomia reevei*.

On April 26, 1864, the Norwich Geological Society was established, with the Rev. John Gunn, F.G.S., as President, John Ellor Taylor Secretary, and James Reeve an active member of the Committee. The Society flourished until 1884, when it became merged into the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, established in 1869, a Society of which James Reeve was an original member and a Vice-President at the date of his decease. He was elected an F.G.S. in 1901, and was interested in F. W. Harmer's Memoir on Pliocene Mollusca, published during recent years by the Palæontographical Society. His original papers were published in the *Proceedings of the Norwich Geological Society*, 1878–84, and innumerable references to him are to be found in the Memoirs of S. V. Wood, F.G.S., F. W. Harmer, M.A., F.G.S., and E. T. Newton, F.R.S.

The geological collections of the Norwich Castle Museum consist mainly of fossils of local origin, viz. Cromer "Forest Bed", Chalk, and "Crag", one of the most important being that formed by Samuel Woodward, author of the *Geology of Norfolk*, published as early as 1833.

The present Curator, Mr. Frank Leney, has added considerably to the geological collection since his succession in office to Mr. James Reeve, and has published lists of all specimens preserved in the Norwich Castle Museum which have been figured by Darwin and others.

Of Mr. James Reeve's labours as an art connoisseur, and the very valuable collection he formed of the Norwich School of Painters, let the prints and drawings in the British Museum and the Norwich Castle attest to his untiring efforts to rescue from oblivion and bring together the works of Crome, Cotman, Stark, Stannard, and others, who made a name for the Norwich school.

F. L.