

In addition to his writings on the *Challenger*, Sir John Murray published in *The Depths of the Ocean* valuable contributions on oceanic life in its relation to geology; the condition of our planet in past ages; on the origin of coral reefs; on geography, oceanography, and marine biology. Sir John Murray married, in 1889, Isabel, only daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Henderson, ship-owner, of Glasgow. He leaves two sons and three daughters.

He was made a Knight of the Prussian Order pour le Mérite in 1898. He received numerous medals, and was an honorary member of a great number of British and foreign scientific societies.

JAMES McMURTRIE, F.G.S.

BORN 1840.

DIED FEBRUARY, 1914.

WE regret to record the death of another excellent geologist, and valued friend, Mr. James McMurtrie, F.G.S., of 5 Belvedere Road, Durdham Park, Bristol, who passed away on February 2, in his 74th year.

Mr. McMurtrie was for forty years connected with the estates of the Waldegrave family, and was manager of their collieries at Radstock until 1902. It was from this coal-field that many of the ferns figured by Brongniart in his *Histoire des Végétaux Fossiles*, 4to, 1828, were obtained.

Mr. McMurtrie was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London in 1873. He was a typical Scotchman and served as President of the Bristol Caledonian Society in 1906.

Born at Dalquahrran, in the parish of Dalry, Ayrshire, McMurtrie began life under his father, who was manager of the collieries at that place. He entered for a short time upon commercial life in Liverpool, but soon removed to Newcastle-on-Tyne, becoming a mining pupil at the Towneley Collieries at Ryton, where he was articled to Mr. Robert Simpson. Having completed his articles McMurtrie (in 1862) at the age of 22 went to Radstock, Somerset. During his forty years' residence he carefully studied and mapped the coal-seams of that difficult area and collected some very fine and characteristic coal-plants which he subsequently presented to the Geological Department of the British Museum, Natural History, Cromwell Road, London.

HENRY POTONIÉ.

BORN NOVEMBER 16, 1857.

DIED OCTOBER 28, 1913.

WE regret to record the death of this distinguished palæobotanist. Born in Berlin he was educated in that city and in Paris, and at the age of 21 gave special attention to the study of botany. In 1880 he was appointed an assistant in the Botanic Garden at Berlin; five years later he became Palæobotanist to the Geological Survey of Prussia; in 1891 he was appointed Professor of Palæobotany in the School of Mines, and in 1901 occupied a similar post in the University at Berlin. His *Lehrbuch der Pflanzenpaläontologie* was published during the years 1897–9, and a second edition was in preparation. He was author also of other books on recent and fossil botany, and of many important papers on fossil plants.