

Thirty years ago, Mr. Darwin published as separate works, "Observations on South America," and his "Geological Observations on Volcanic Islands." Since then geology has advanced with strides as great as those which have been stimulated in biology by Mr. Darwin's own labours. It therefore appears singular that these two books should be reprinted verbatim now,²⁵ and issued in one volume as a second edition, with a confession on the part of the author that corrections were required. Mr. Darwin remarks in his preface concerning this subject:—

"As I believe they still contain matter of scientific value, it has appeared to me advisable that they should be republished. They relate to parts of the world which have been so rarely visited by men of science, that I am not aware that much could be corrected or added from observations subsequently made. Owing to the great progress which geology

²⁴ "The School Manual of Geology." By J. Beete Jukes, M.A., F.R.S. Third Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Edited by Alfred J. Jukes-Browne, B.A., F.G.S. Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black. 1876.

²⁵ "Geological Observations on the Volcanic Islands and Parts of South America Visited during the Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle." By Charles Darwin, M.A., F.R.S. Second Edition, with Maps and Illustrations. London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 1876.

has made within recent times, my views on some few points may be somewhat antiquated, but I have thought it best to leave them as they originally appeared."

The main truths in this volume are adopted into geological science, and are to be found in daily use in all public lectures ; but the book, as a whole, will probably be found too technical for readers who are familiar with the author's more popular works.

The chief additions made by Mr. Geikie in the new edition of his "Great Ice Age" ²⁶ are such as to leave his views practically unchanged. Mr. Geikie believes the ice age to have been a succession of glacial periods separated from each other by genial interglacial intervals. In Norfolk and Lancashire four glacial periods are supposed to have existed. The last of these is believed to have been more recent than the cave deposits and river gravels which contain the palæolithic flint implements. And accordingly, no difficulty is found in adopting the alleged discovery of flint implements near Brandon, in a deposit older than the boulder clay, as an addition to knowledge. No one doubts that the deposit is beneath boulder clay, but there is considerable difference of opinion as to whether the boulder clay may not be a mere reconstructed accumulation consequent upon the last emergence of the land from the water. The newest information is in every case given by the author upon all parts of the subject, and this edition is materially improved by the addition of new woodcuts.