

22 January, 1954.

Dear Harland,

I think the material of the third volume of the first edition ^[K] was never brought into the second edition at all. From the date you give, 1882, for the second edition of volume one, it must be a reprint for the original second edition must have appeared about 1832 and as you say possibly even before volume three was issued though doubtless long after the material in it was written. My edition of volume three is dated 1833.

You will however easily know if you have the original first edition of this volume by looking for the large appendix starting with, "Instruction for using M. Deshayes's table of shells. Appendix 1" following on to Appendix 1, "Tables of fossil shells, by M. G.P. Deshayes" and finally many pages later, "General Results deduced from a comparison of the species examined in compiling the foregoing tables". Thereafter comes the much shorter appendix 2.

One of the circumstances that made me think that Lyell's method had been almost forgotten is that the definitions of the words miocene and pleiocene commonly given in Geological textbooks and in dictionaries are in an interesting way different

[* Lyell, C.M. Principles of Geology.]

from those given specifically by Lyell; e.g. it is said that pleiocene is to be interpreted as "more recent", and meiocene as "less recent", whereas Lyell carefully explained the etymology of the words he was introducing as "majority recent" ~~for~~^{for} pleiocene and "minority recent" for meiocene. He was in fact concerned with estimates of frequency of supposedly recent species rather than with a mere statement of comparative ages. Perhaps you will know how widespread this particular misapprehension is.

In view of the rather rapid disappearance of the main evidence for Lyell's method I do not think there is any particular criticism of the later geologists in the fact that it has been, shall I say, so little emphasised in the tradition of geological teaching and that geological students have not been greatly encouraged to study any further potentialities that there may be to study in statistical methods generally.

Sincerely yours,