

**Meeting of the Lyceum of Natural History—Prof. Waterhouse Hawkins' Report on the Paleozoic Museum at Central Park.**

At the regular meeting of the Lyceum of Natural History, held last evening at their rooms, on Madison-avenue, Prof. WATERHOUSE HAWKINS read a report of the Paleozoic Museum, from its inception up to the time of its abandonment by the present Board of Commissioners of Public Parks. The Professor began by giving a short account of the programme adopted in England by the Conference on Technical Education, the substance of which was that in all schools, of whatever class, it was growing more and more necessary that science and art should be placed on the same favorable footing as other studies. These views he had embodied in various lectures delivered soon after his arrival in this country, all of which had been favorably received, for he found that in popular education, associated with science, this country had in part anticipated the tardy action of the Old World. It was at this time, and in furtherance of these views that he was employed by the Commissioners of Central Park to revive the ancient history of the Old World, by the most veritable and substantial illustrations of its earlier inhabitants. In this work he found much to contend with; the storehouse from which to draw was very limited; in New-York the only fossilized specimens he could find was an Irish elk and one of a horse; but in Philadelphia he was more successful, as he there found the imperfect skeleton of the gigantic *Hodrosaurus*; this he soon restored so as to complete it in every respect. It was now necessary to have a proper building in which to complete the blocking out of the form of this huge animal. For a long time he labored under great difficulties, working in a temporary shed, and was again and again promised that something would soon be done, particularly the platform, on which alone he could erect his models, would be furnished him, but time passed and nothing was done, and in December last he received a notice from the Commissioners that his services would be discontinued until further action of the Board. By this procedure the whole scheme of popular education which he had been endeavoring to carry out was annulled.

He trusted, however, only temporarily, and thought in time the good sense of the people would awaken, and that they would realize the the vast importance of the work.

The Chairman, Mr. J. S. NEWBERRY, then made a few remarks, and said that the present circumstance was of far too great importance to pass by lightly. Prof. HAWKINS was the only man in the world who could successfully model fossilized specimens. We have, he said, many who are adepts in paleontology and geology, but it may be a century before we find another man who combines the skill necessary for this work. Then, too, we need some public museum of this kind. Barnum's Museum was of inestimable value to our community, and since it was burnt we have had nothing to take its place.

Mr. E. G. SQUIER said that the only way he could see in which the Museum could be successfully carried on was to elect TWED as President, SWZEXY as Treasurer, and the rest of them as directors; then it would prosper. Prof. HAWKINS has been studying books and bones; what does he know about the management of Central Park; he was only an Englishman, any way, and the idea of his trying to get up a museum in this City without a corresponding scheme for dividing the profits, was an absurdity only equaled by the supposition that the present City Government could be persuaded to do anything for scientific purposes.

Dr. WALZ objected to the manner in which the last gentleman had spoken, as having a tendency to do more harm than good to their project, though he thought an appeal to the City Government for this purpose would be like asking the Enemy of Mankind to assist in advancing the cause of religion. The following resolutions were then passed:

*Resolved*, That the Lyceum of Natural History in the City of New-York has learned with deep regret of the temporary suspension of the work of restoration of the forms of extinct animals, as hitherto prosecuted in the Central Park, under the Superintendence of Prof. WATERHOUSE HAWKINS.

*Resolved*, That this Lyceum considers the proposed Paleozoic Museum not only as a valuable acquisition to the scientific treasures and resources of the City, but also as a most important adjunct and complement to our great system of public education.

Among the gentlemen present were Mr. Andrew H. Green, Profs. C. A. Seeley, E. W. Lawrence, C. A. Joy and Temple Prime.

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