

TRILOBITE REMAINS COLLECTED IN THE FLORENTINE VALLEY, WEST TASMANIA, BY MR. T. STEPHENS, M.A.

By R. ETHERIDGE, JUNR., Curator.

(Plate x.)

Mr. T. Stephens, M.A., late Chief Inspector of Schools for Tasmania, recently presented to the Trustees some fragmentary fossils, chiefly Trilobite remains, from a new locality in that island. He informed me by letter that "the locality is the Florentine Valley. The river of that name is a tributary of the Derwent, the course of which is entirely through Permo-Carboniferous formations, but the Florentine itself runs through the eastern fringe of the Silurian country of West Tasmania, with its ancient limestones, conglomerates, quartzites, etc., the true relative position of which is still a matter of conjecture. While accompanying an exploring party last year towards the River Gordon, I noticed shales and sandstone likely to yield fossils, and you see the result."

The matrix is a yellow, slightly micaceous, somewhat fissile mudstone, and the organic remains are all preserved either as casts, or external impressions; in no instance is there any preservation of test. The remains are those of Trilobites and Mollusca, all fragmentary and badly preserved.

Amongst the former are a peculiar pygidium and an indistinct cephalon that seem to be referable to the genus *Dikelocephalus*. The pygidium is broad oval in outline, with a narrow tapering axis, consisting of seven segments and a terminal appendage, which does not reach the ventral border. The side lobes are flattened and each bears seven or eight pleural segments, which gradually curve downwards, more and more towards the posterior, until the last one is practically parallel to the axis, and the two above it nearly so. The ventral margin supports two caudal spines, lateral in position, opposite the outward terminations of the second pleural segments. The length of these spines cannot be accurately defined, but I believe them to have been short. Beneath the outer preserved layer is a wide and imbricately striate limb.

The resemblance of this pygidium to that of *Dikelocephalus minnesotensis*, D. D. Owen,<sup>1</sup> is very strong, but if the pleural

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<sup>1</sup> D. D. Owen—Report Geol. Survey Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, 1852, p. 574, atlas, pl. i., f. 1 and 2; Whitfield—Geol. Wisconsin, Survey of 1873-79, iv., 1882, pl. iii., f. 1.