BLACKER

2 Abbey Court, Chester,
13th Dec. 1875.

Dear Sir,

I have written 12 queries (including a number of sub-queries) worded more concisely and officially for the than in the article part 2 of the last Magazine, the main part of which article consists of a compilation of the statements of Arctic & Antarctic voyagers concerning the action of ice.

The queries might come into the Instructions as an Appendix, if in no other way.

Thanks for your naming the Calcite.

I am Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

D. Mackintosh.

Turn over

If in your compilation you are quoting from the Fed. Mag. or Quart. Journ. Fed. Society, concerning its action, I could compress all that which would be of much use in two or three pages — & give you a list of the articles, and the pages at which they begin.

BLACKER

2 Abbey Court, Chester,
11th Feb. 1875

Dear Sir,— I see you have something to do with the preparation of the Royal Society's Instructions for the Arctic Expedition. I wish something could be done to obtain answers to certain queries on mysterious subjects connected with ice-action. For about 10 years I have made the glacial phenomena of the west of England & Wales a subject of almost constant study, & believe that no satisfactory conclusions can be arrived at before until we know more of the precise mode of action of ice-action in the Arctic or Antarctic regions. I have had an advantage over other observers (such as those connected with the Survey) in being familiar with the drift of many parts of England & Wales, including both plains and mountains, but this has only tended to

shew more clearly how far off we are from certain results. Helaine the Rev. Maxwell H. Close of Blackrock, Dublin, has done as much as I have devoted as much time as I have done to the study of glacial phenomena, and he finds himself beset with difficulties.

I have written about 20 Queries with remarks for the Arctic Expedition, and sent the article to the Geological Magazine but I am not yet quite sure that it will be inserted. The queries have a reference to such subject as the ice-sheets, the state of their surface, interior and base — their power to hold stones firmly fixed in their base — their transporting power — their striating and polishing power, &c. &c. — icebergs — the state of their surface, interior, & base, their power transporting & striating power, &c. — rearranging & stratifying & revolving ice-bergs, their excavating power, &c. &c. — Coast-ice, its glaciating agency — power of uniformly striating stones, transporting power, &c. — how far contortions of stratified drift may be caused by grounding icebergs or sea-ice — the form assumed by clay, sand & gravel precipitated from floating ice, &c. — how far certain modes of ice-action in the Arctic regions may explain a number of puzzling phenomena exhibited by drift-sections, — and many other subjects.

I take the liberty of sending you a specimen from our Natural Science Society. You need not return it. Would you kindly tell me the name of the mineral. It was found in a black iron-stone band in the coal-measures of North Staffordshire.

I likewise send a glaciated small stone from our upper boulder-clay. There are many much more strikingly striated, but the weather is not now favourable for collecting them. The stone will require a lens. You need not return it.

With many thanks for all your kindness, I am, Dear Sir, Yours very truly,

D. Mackintosh.