

of 1886, knows now that these are only erroneous notions put forward by the "united opposition of Emmons' contemporaries."

The use of the name Taconic is a very simple question. It rests entirely on priority. Barrande has demonstrated, as far back as 1861, that it was in the Taconic system, that the primordial fauna was first discovered in 1844, and, consequently, that the American name has precedence over all other names.

It is a creed among geologists, a creed which has just received a new sanction and acknowledgment at the meeting of the Commission for the uniformity of nomenclature of the International Geological Congress at Geneva, in August last, that no system of stratified rocks is accepted as independent and separate, unless it contain a special fauna. Sedgwick did not find a single fossil in the lower part, of what he called, in 1835, the Cambrian system, and he had no right to include it in the Cambrian. We have there two systems of strata as well marked and separated as any of the different systems in existence in our classifications.

The Taconic system is the only *Terrain* or division of the second order that can be claimed by American geologists in the general classification of the strata of the world; and to surrender it into the hands of the English is to give up the only claim we have to be recognized as original discoverers. Certainly, we shall preserve also all the classifications of the divisions of the third (divisions), fourth (groups) and fifth (beds), orders special to America; and on that account there is not the smallest danger to be apprehended of their being suppressed or superseded by European geologists. But it is a patriotic duty for us Americans to preserve and keep religiously, the fact that here, among the mountain ranges which separate the Hudson river and Lake Champlain from the Connecticut river and the Green mountains, the great system, containing the Primordial fauna, was first discovered, pointed out and named.

Mr. Walcott uses repeatedly the name Ordovician as a synonym or substitute for Lower Silurian (second fauna) confining the name Cambrian to the Taconic or Primordial fauna horizon. It is an unfortunate introduction of a very recent name, for strata well defined and named in America many years previously. Doctor Emmons in his remarkable classification of the Palaeozoic strata of the State of New York in 1842 and 1846,¹ called "Champlain

¹ Geology of New York, Part II, p. 112, and Agriculture of New York, Vol. I, p. 115. Albany, 1842-46.