

to help him by pointing out errors in "these preliminary studies," as he calls them, adding candidly that he "will be glad to have his attention called to them."¹

It is in answer to his demand that I will call his attention, first, to "the use of the name Taconic;" and later, in another paper which will promptly follow, on "the Taconic of Georgia, Vermont." Mr. Walcott has a long explanation entitled: "On the use of the name Taconic," in his "introductory observations" (see pp. 65 to 71), where he tries to show why he is "compelled to use Cambrian in preference to Taconic."

Mr. Walcott says that the fauna published in "his paper is the fauna of the Upper Taconic of Emmons as defined by him in 1855;" moreover, he admits that "Dr. Emmons was correct in classifying the Upper Taconic as Pre-Potsdam;" and further he says that "Dr. Emmons deserves great credit for the work that he did." Yet notwithstanding all these friendly admissions of the discovery and value of the Taconic system, and the singular statement that the lower division "will be dropped entirely;" and that "the Upper Taconic which," according to Mr. Walcott, "is not now known to occur in the Taconic area, would be taken as the true Taconic, which it does not appear to be, although Dr. Emmons included the *Black Slates* in it in 1847;" farther on he adds, "it is one of the misfortunes of his (Dr. Emmons) career that he began his work on the Taconic system in the Taconic area, instead of Western Vermont or along the Hudson river, etc." Emmons, on the contrary, ought to be highly complimented, because he first worked out, in a difficult part of the country, the arduous and most important problem of finding an immense system of strata below the Potsdam, collecting stratigraphic and palaeontologic proofs at and near the Taconic range. The name is excellent in all respects, being indigenous, a beautiful Indian denomination, indicating a range of mountains well defined, where the first observations were made, and is as appropriate as the Jurassic, from the Jura mountains.

As to the Taconic area not being truly Taconic, and "that most, if not all, of the strata included by Emmons in his original Taconic are of Lower Silurian age," Mr. Walcott, by his own researches

¹ Second Contribution to the Studies, etc., on pp. 58, 59 and 65.

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