

in calling all the lower rocks of the palaeozoic and base of the great series of strata, the *Taconic System*, referring them to a *system* and not to a subdivision of a system as Sedgwick wrongly did.

Murchison in claiming the rocks of the Second fauna—and even the greatest part of the Primordial fauna—as belonging to the Silurian, has committed precisely the same scientific error as Sedgwick, putting two systems into one. Palaeontology has put an end to the discussion and to the tendency of both Sedgwick and Murchison to monopolize two systems. It has found a solution creditable to the two adversaries, and at the same time to a third observer, Emmons, who without claiming anything, has found the Primordial fauna, the very base and first step of Palaeontology itself.

Ordovician is absolutely valueless and creates a confusion without any compensation. Its author has put it forward on the trivial objection that the two opponents—Sedgwick and Murchison—being both wrong, a new name was desirable; and Professor Lapworth chooses a Welsh name, without consideration of the claims either of foreign geologists or foreign geology. Priority was set aside, and without any regard to the name of Champlain group used in America since 1844—a fact which he seems to ignore—he has not hesitated in offering as a solution of the difficulty, a new name whose only merit is in being British. American geologists know well what is meant by Champlain group or Trenton fauna, and to replace it now by Ordovician, when we try to give credit and approve the claims of the distinguished authors and pioneers of the discoveries made in the Lower Palaeozoic rocks of the world, cannot be allowed. There is confusion enough without it. Let us be content with the names offered in 1835 and 1844 by Sedgwick, Murchison and Emmons.

In fact, to Sedgwick we owe the *Cambrian*, limited to one fauna, proved by Barrande to be the *Second fauna*; to Murchison we owe the *Silurian*, limited to the *Third fauna*; and to Emmons we owe the *Taconic* comprising the *Primordial fauna*.

American geologists have the right of priority in the Taconic system, and also they have priority in the name of Champlain over Ordovician offered lately by the English.