

PERMIAN FOSSILS IN KANSAS, AND ELSEWHERE IN AMERICA.—We have received, nearly at the same time, published notices by Mr. Meek and Dr. Haydon of Albany, and by Professor Swallow of Missouri, on the discovery in a bed of limestone at Smoky Hill Fort, and other places in Kansas, of fossil shells, clearly indicating that this bed represents the Permian system of Sir R. I. Murchison, the newest member of the Palæozoic series, and one of the links heretofore wanting to give completeness to the chain of geological formations in Western America. We observe that a controversy exists between the gentlemen above named as to the priority of discovery or the right of announcing it. As both of the parties have sufficiently established reputations, independently of this discovery, we would recommend to them to leave the honor to Major Hawn and Dr. Cooper, who actually disinterred these interesting remains, and to co-operate in the description of the fossils and the prosecution of farther researches.

We observe in the November number of *Silliman's Journal*, that the fossils collected by Professor Emmons in North Carolina are leading to the conclusion, that the well-known red sandstones of Connecticut, New Jersey, etc., are of somewhat older date than geologists have recently supposed—that they may be Lower Triassic or even Permian. This is of some geological interest in British America, as it would bring these deposits into parallelism with the great areas of red sandstone in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, known to be later than the coal period, and respecting which the writer several years since\* stated his opinion, founded on fossil plants and reptilian remains; that they were probably Permian or Lower Triassic, a view which then seemed scarcely compatible with the received age of the similar sandstones in the United States.

The most interesting part of the discoveries of Prof. Emmons, rendered still more interesting by the probability that these rocks are older than the American geologists have hitherto supposed, is, that among these fossils appears a small mammal, probably the oldest known, the *Dromatherium Sylvestre* (Emmons). This is the first evidence of Mammalian life obtained from the Secondary rocks in America; and if the views above mentioned are correct, older than the *Microlestes* of the German Trias, the oldest fossil mammal heretofore found.

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