

place between the two groups. Instead of regarding the Potsdam as the *first* term of the Silurian rocks, I think it is the *last* one of the Taconic system, which changes its place of *bottom rocks* containing fossil remains into that of *cover*, capping a system of 30,000 feet of fossiliferous strata, containing at different levels, especially the upper half, the remains of organic beings left by the Primordial fauna.

The Taconic system, contrary to the other members of the Paleozoic series of North America, has been subjected to dislocations on a vast scale, and presents almost always strata upheaved, broken up, and in the most disturbed state, with the exception of the upper portion or Potsdam group. Generally, along the Alleghany range, the Lower Silurian rocks follow immediately; although in Canada, Vermont, and New York, patches of Hudson River group, Utica slate, Trenton limestone, Chazy limestone, and Calciferous sandrocks, indicate that the Lower Silurian strata have recovered in discordance of stratification some parts of the country where the Taconic strata were upheaved and dislocated. In Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina, New Red Sandstone covers the Taconic strata, probably, also, in Maine and New Brunswick. In the elevation of land comprised between the Upper Mississippi, Lake Superior, and Lake Michigan, the Taconic system is well developed, resting on granite; it is formed of slates, mica-schists, quartzites, limestones, iron breccia, and is terminated by what D. D. Owen has called *Lower sandstone of the Upper Mississippi*, or *formation I*. Until now, fossil remains have only been found in the upper part of the system, on the St. Croix River, where Mr. Owen has indicated and described Trilobites and Lingulæ, indicating the Primordial fauna. Fragments of Primordial Trilobites, and Lingulæ, have also been found near Lake Michigan, and on the Menomonee and Escanaba rivers. On the southern part of the elevation of land alluded to, the Taconic strata are followed and recovered by the Silurian rocks, while on the northern part, that is to say, in the Lake Superior direction, they are covered in *discordant stratification*, as in North Carolina, by the *Triassic strata* of the Lake Superior sandstone formation. Taconic strata exist also on the northern shore of Lake Superior, especially near the Pic and