rocks than I had an opportunity of doing last summer, I hope to obtain much additional data that will assist largely in determining the position of the Selkirk exposure in the geological series of rocks.

I have no doubt but many interesting fossils will be obtained and complete forms secured, of which I have as yet been able to find only fragments.

All these peculiar remains to which reference has been made are traces of primeval life that occupied the waters of an ocean which once covered this part of the world.

These animals were among the leadin types then in existence, for at that period in creation none of the higher animals (those with a backbone) had as yet made their appearance. Life was confined to the sea, and was of a rudimentary nature. It was a time of great stillness, for the land was not yet fitted for terrestrial life. No sound was heard but the lashing of the waves along the lonely shores, or the winds sweeping, unimpeded in their course across the bleak and solitary rocks. The continent, like its species, was submarine. It was outlined, but not until long periods had passed, during which great physical disturbances took place, was the present form brought into existence. Taking the data collected from this somewhat obscure quarry and reflecting upon the changes which must have taken place since these animals existed, and how these changes have likely been brought about, the fragmentary records of the quarry become a source of intense interest and constant food to a contemplative mind.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SILURIAN ROCKS IN GENERAL.

As already observed, the stratified nature of the rock, its comparatively soft condition in contrast with crystalline rocks and sedimentary origin, for no doubt it was formed beneath water as sediments are accumulating in our modern seas, place the limestories of this quarry under the division Aqueous rocks. The presence of innumerable fossils characteristic of Silmrian rocks indicates the rock as belonging to the Silurian system.

This name was given by geologists because the rocks of this class abounded in the western part of England, once ocenpied by the Silnres, a tribe of Britons. The name, like many in geology, is misleading, for there are many places now known both in the United States and in Canada where these rocks are very common.

An examination of the Silurian rocks wherever they have been found, shows that the life of the period was limited in species but exceedingly prolific in individuals. The trilobites already referred to seem to have thronged the seas in some parts. Their remains are very numerons, and we know that a great number of bodies are never preserved in a fossil state, for the conditions necessary to their formation are absent. Besides corals, cuttlefish and shells, there were peculiar organisms not yet found at Selkirk in these early seas, allied to the starfish They are sometimes called sea family. lilies. Placed on a stalk and attached to the sea bottom they presented a flowerlike appearance. We seldom find the top or animal proper, but the stems are very common, varying from an eighth to one inch in diameter, and over a foot in length. Another fossil found elsewhere in these rocks is something like the appearance of a tiny saw. In Europe fish have been found at the summit of the Silurian rocks. The deposits were evidently laid down in comparatively shallow seas, with rocks rising here and there above the water, but yet unfitted for animal life.

Besides the interest which a consideration of the stone in Selkirk quarry gives us regarding its nature and formation, it becomes instructive when we view the quarry with regard to the bearing of its fossils upon the theory of evolution.

THEORY OF EVOLUTION.

This theory has commanded, and is now attracting, a great deal of attention, and has its conclusions defended by some master minds. The data in its favor has been arranged with great skill, and the arguments so cleverly presented that many are inclined to accept it before it has passed beyond the region of an hypothesis. Some of our citizens had an opportunity last summer of hearing one of the ablest teachers of the day take the platform in defence of what he himself styled a glorious guess at hidden truth. In the course of his remarks he laid great stress upon what is revealed to us when we consult the geological records regarding the development of life upon the lobe.

As a fitting conclusion to my remarks upon Selkirk quarry, I shall present to you some of the information we gather from these rocks, as it hears upon this question. The advocates of this theory tell us that it is not between man and the monkey we must seek a congeeting link, for they are the descendants

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