

The reader of the last few pages of this history will have seen how the Silurian nomenclature of Murchison and the British Geological Survey has been, through Lyell, de Verneuil and the Canadian Survey, introduced into American geology in opposition to the judgment, and against the protests of James Hall and the Messrs. Rogers, the founders of American paleozoic geology.

Three points have I think, been made clear in the first and second parts of this sketch: First, that the series to which the name of Cambrian was applied by Sedgwick in 1835, (limited by him as to its downward extension, in 1838) was co-extensive with the rocks characterized by the first and second faunas. Second, that the series to which the name of Silurian was given by Murchison in 1835, included the second and third faunas; but that the rocks of the second fauna, the Upper Cambrian of Sedgwick, were only included in the Silurian system of Murchison by a series of errors and misconceptions in stratigraphy, on the part of the latter, which gave him no right to claim the rocks of the second fauna as a lower member of his Silurian. Third, that there was no ground whatever for subsequently annexing to the Silurian of Murchison, the Lower and Middle Cambrian divisions of Sedgwick, which the latter had separated from the Upper Cambrian on stratigraphical grounds, and which were subsequently found to contain a distinct and more ancient fauna.

The name of Silurian should therefore be restricted, as maintained by Sedgwick and by the Messrs. Rogers, to the rocks of the third fauna, the so-called Upper Silurian of Murchison; and the names of Middle Silurian, Lower Silurian, and Primordial Silurian banished from our nomenclature. The Cambrian of Sedgwick however includes the rocks both of the first and second faunas. To the former of these, the lower and middle divisions of the Cambrian, (the Bangor and Festiniog groups of Sedgwick,) Phillips, Lyell, Davidson, Harkness, Hicks and other British geologists, agree in applying the name of Cambrian. The great Bala group of Sedgwick, which constitutes his Upper Cambrian, is however as distinct from the last as it is from the overlying Silurian, and deserves a not less distinctive name than these two. Its original designation of Upper Cambrian, when the zoological importance of Lower Cambrian was as yet unknown, is not sufficiently distinct, and the same is to be said of the name of Lower Silurian, wrongly imposed