

3. **THE SILURIAN SYSTEM.**—The Silurian system is well developed in the border counties of England and Wales, and spreads over a considerable area of South Wales, forming a link which connects the carboniferous series with the ancient slate rocks of that country. The strata are named and characterised by Mr. Murchison according to the following table :—

**SILURIAN SYSTEM. (Plate IX. iv.)**

(Commencing with the uppermost.)

Upper Silurian, thickness about 4000 feet.	}	<p><i>Ludlow rocks</i> — slightly micaceous grey-coloured sandstone. Blue and grey argillaceous limestone. Dark-coloured shales and flag-stones, with concretions of earthy limestone, containing marine shells, orthocerae, spiriferæ, and trilobites. <i>Fishes.</i></p> <p><i>Wenlock, or Dudley limestone</i>—sub-crystalline blue and grey limestone—abounding in trilobites, crinoidea, polyparia, spiriferæ, orthocerae, &amp;c.</p> <p><i>Wenlock shale</i>—dark-grey argillaceous shale, with nodules of sandstone.</p>
Lower Silurian, thickness about 3500 feet.	}	<p><i>Caradoc* sandstone</i>—shelly limestones, and finely laminated, slightly micaceous greenish sandstones. Corals, mollusca, trilobites.</p> <p><i>Llandeilo flags and limestone.</i> Freestone, conglomeritic grits, and limestones. Dark-coloured flags. Beds of schist with abundance of trilobites and mollusca.</p>
Total thickness, nearly 8000 feet.†		

\* *Caradoc*, or Caractacus, the celebrated British chief.

† The SILURIAN SYSTEM, founded on geological researches in the border counties of England and Wales, with descriptions