

low rock. As they are the oldest remains of vertebrated animals yet known to geologists, it is worthy of notice that they belong to fish of a high or very perfect organisation.'—*Lyell*.

17. Lower Silurian. 'It is an interesting fact, that with many extinct forms of testacea [animals devoid of bones, with soft bodies, and having a shelly covering] peculiar to the Lower Silurian, others are associated belonging to genera still existing, as nautilus, turbo, buccinum, turritella, terebratula, and orbicula.'—*Lyell* on the authority of *Murchison*. 'No land plants seem yet to have been discovered in strata which can be unequivocally demonstrated to belong to the Silurian period.'—*Ib*.
18. Cambrian and older fossiliferous strata. Professor Sedgwick has given to this group of rocks the name Cambrian, because it is largely developed in North Wales. There succeeds a group called the Cumbrian (studied with advantage in Cumberland), in the upper portion of which some fossils are found, and these are the oldest monuments of life as yet discovered.

I may add, that under these fossiliferous strata we have very extensive deposits, which the older geologists called primitive. They are now called non-fossiliferous, or metamorphic. They contain marks of stratification, but instead of being mechanical aggregates, they are highly crystalline, in consequence, as is thought, of having been subjected to igneous agency. Such are micaceous schist, hornblende schist, and gneiss.