

It is probable, however, that only a few persons would as yet agree with me in this classification, and indeed, since the first publication, by Mr. Murchison, of 'The Silurian System,' dedicated to Professor Sedgwick in 1839, there has been, after a temporary lull, but little unanimity among British geologists on a subject about which European and American geologists care but little, and which is to a great extent a matter of local opinion.

In 1841 and 1842 Sir Henry de la Beche and those who worked with him, adopted the term Cambrian for all the purple grits and slates of St. David's and the Longmynd, then supposed to be unfossiliferous; while the name Silurian, nearly in the same sense as used by Murchison, was employed for all the strata between the uppermost beds of these rocks and the top of the Ludlow series. When the Government Geological Survey reached North Wales this classification continued for a time unchallenged. Professor Sedgwick had previously called the equivalents of part of these strata in the north of England the CUMBRIAN series, and at that time he called the blue and grey slaty series of Wales the CAMBRIAN series, on the assumption, then unquestioned, that they were all older than the recognised Llandeilo flags of Murchison. But in the progress of investigation by Sedgwick and many others, it appeared that his original Cambrian, and Murchison's original Lower Silurian strata, were in great part equivalent, and the great Professor of Cambridge naturally reclaimed all that part of his kingdom, the boundaries of which had, for all Wales, not been clearly defined when he first tried to subdue it. He therefore, maintained, that the true Cambrian series included all the strata from the base of the purple slates and grits