

to the top of the Bala beds or Caradoc sandstone of Murchison.

By way of healing differences and striking a just middle boundary, Professor Phillips and Sir Charles Lyell proposed that the term Cambrian should be used as including all the strata from the known base of the Longmynd, St. David's, and North Wales purple grits and slates, through the Lingula flags up to the top of the Tremadoc slates, a proposition which satisfied neither of the claimants.

This is not a book in which to enter into the details of a controversy which has comparatively little interest beyond the confines of the British Islands, and will by-and-by be forgotten along with other minor debates, that in their day were of equal or more importance; but I have thought it worth while to sketch out the questions involved, that in the conflict of lecturers and writers of memoirs and manuals, ordinary readers may know something of the origin of the varieties of opinion implied in the different nomenclatures. In the meanwhile I shall use the old-fashioned nomenclature adopted by the Geological Survey, as most convenient for me, seeing that if any one in reading this book should find it needful to look at the maps and sections of that Survey, and at most other maps as well, he will find the word Cambrian restricted to those strata, that at St. David's, and in Merionethshire lie below the base of the Menevian beds. In this sense, then:—

THE CAMBRIAN ROCKS of Wales consist of the purple grits and slates, that form the greater part of the group of hills that lie east of Cardigan Bay between the estuaries of the Mawddach and most of the country S.S.W. of Ffestiniog. In that region their stratigraphical relation to the overlying Lower Silurian