

of this group in the position which it occupies affords support to the belief that the volcanic rocks elsewhere conjectured to be pre-Cambrian really belong to the Cambrian system. At the Lizard Point in Cornwall a series of eruptive and schistose rocks occurs, the true relations of which have not yet been fixed. They may be pre-Cambrian. They include coarse gneisses which rise as islets near the coast.

On the continent of Europe numerous isolated areas of schists and other ancient rocks have been assigned to a pre-Cambrian or Archæan series. In the older descriptions of these tracts an order of succession was often given, the foliation being assumed to represent consecutive layers of deposition. But we now know that, in the great majority of cases, the foliation is entirely independent of original structure, so that the former attempts to establish a stratigraphical order among the gneisses and schists, and to compare that order in different countries, cannot be accepted. All that can be attempted here is to give a summary of the general characters of the most ancient rocks of each region referred to.

**Scandinavia** exhibits the largest continuous tract of pre-Cambrian rocks in Europe.<sup>46</sup> Although these rocks have been more or less minutely examined throughout the whole extent of the peninsula, and have been described in many papers and memoirs, the published descriptions of them, though often excellent from the lithological point of view, were almost entirely written before the recent revolution in

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<sup>46</sup> In the older literature consult Keilhau, "Gaea Norvegica," iii. 1850. Kjerulf, "Udsigt over det Sydlige Norges Geologi," Christiania, 1879 (translated into German by Gurlt, and published by Cohen, Bonn, 1880). A. E. Törnebohm, "Die Schwedischen Hochgebirge," Schwed. Akad. Stockholm, 1873. "Das Urterritorium Schwedens," Neues Jahrb. 1874, p. 131. Karl Pettersen, "Geologiske Undersøgelser inden Tromsø Amt," etc., Norske Videnskab. Skrift, vi. 44; vii. 261. For more recent work see Reusch's important monograph on the fossiliferous crystalline schists of Bergen, quoted on p. 1031, also his instructive essay "Bömmelöen og Karmöen," 1888; his papers in the "Aarbog for 1891" of the Geological Survey of Norway (Norges Geologiske Undersøgelser); his "Geologiske Iagttagelser fra Trondhjems Stift," Christiania vidensk. selsk. forhandl. 1891; and his paper on crystalline schists of Western Norway, Compt. Rend. Congrès Geol. Internat. 1888, 1891, p. 192. T. Dahll, O. A. Corneliusen and H. Reusch, "Det nordlige Norges geologi," Norges Geolog. Undersøg. 1892; C. H. Homan, "Selbu," Norges Geolog. Undersøg. 1890; and Törnebohm, Nature, 1888, p. 127. It is to be hoped that Prof. Brøgger may be able to attack the problem of the schistose rocks of Norway, and that we may have from him such a detailed study of them as he has given us in his memoirs on the Christiania district.