

tween the Ludlow rocks of the Upper Silurian and the base of the Carboniferous system in Britain. These rocks were termed "Old" to distinguish them from a somewhat similar series overlying the Coal-measures, to which the name "New" Red Sandstone was applied. When the term Devonian was adopted it speedily supplanted that of Old Red Sandstone, inasmuch as it was founded on a type of marine strata of wide geographical extent, whereas the latter term described what appeared to be merely a British and local development. For the reasons already given, however, it is desirable to retain the title Old Red Sandstone as descriptive of a remarkable suite of deposits to which there is little or nothing analogous in typical Devonian rocks. The Old Red Sandstone of Europe is almost entirely confined to the British Isles. It was deposited in separate areas or basins, the sites of some of which can still be traced. Their diversities of sediment and discrepancy of organic contents point to the absence, or at least rare existence, of any direct communication between them. It was maintained many years ago by Fleming and still more explicitly by Godwin-Austen, and was afterward enforced by A. C. Ramsay, that these basins were lakes or inland seas. The character of the strata, the absence of unequivocally marine fossils, the presence of land-plants and of numerous ganoid fishes, which have their modern representatives in rivers and lakes, suggest and support this opinion, which has been generally adopted by geologists.¹⁵⁵ The red arenaceous and marly strata which, with their fish-remains and land-plants, occupy a depth of many thousand feet be-

¹⁵⁵ For a history of opinion on this subject see *Trans. Royal Soc. Edin.* xxviii. 1869, p. 346.