

opposite bank of the Wye, and seemed to rise quite conformably from beneath the Old Red Sandstone of Herefordshire. Boating across the river at Cavansham Ferry, I rushed up to these ridges, and, to my inexpressible joy, found them replete with Transition fossils, afterwards identified with those at Ludlow. Here then was a key, and if I could only follow this out on the strike of the beds to the north-east, the case would be good.”¹

With unerring instinct Murchison had realised that if the story of old Greywacke was ever to be fully told, a beginning must be made from some known and recognisable horizon. It would have been well-nigh useless to dive into the heart of the Transition hills, and try to work out their complicated structure, for even if a sequence could then have been determined, there would have been no means of connecting it with the already ascertained stratigraphical series, unless it could be followed outwards to the Old Red Sandstone. But by commencing at the known base of that series, every fresh stage conquered was at once a definite platform added to what had already been established.

The explorer kept along the track of the rocks for many miles to the north. No hunter could have followed the scent of the fox better than he did the outcrop of the fossiliferous strata, which he saw to come out regularly from under the lowest members of the Old Red Sandstone. Directed to the Wye by Buckland, he had the good-fortune to come at once upon some of the few natural sections where the order

¹ *Life*, vol. i. p. 182.