

of 1835 the term "Cambrian" was selected.<sup>1</sup> By this time Murchison had learnt that no hard and fast line was to be drawn between the bottom of the Silurian and the top of the Cambrian series. "In South Wales he had traced many distinct passages from the lowest member of the 'Silurian system' into the underlying slaty rocks now named by Professor Sedgwick the Upper Cambrian." Sedgwick, on the other hand, confessed that neither in the Lake District nor in North Wales was the stratigraphical succession unbroken, and that in these regions it was impossible to tell "how many terms are wanting to complete the series to the Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous Limestone."<sup>2</sup> He adopted a threefold subdivision into Lower, Middle, and Upper Cambrian, but this classification rested merely on mineral characters, no attempt having yet been made by him to determine how far each of his subdivisions was defined by distinctive fossils.

Eventually it was ascertained that the organic remains in the upper part of the Cambrian system were the same as those found in the Lower Silurian formations as defined by Murchison. It became obvious that the one series was really the equivalent of the other, and that they ought not to be classed under separate names. The officers of the Geological Survey, working from the clearly defined Silurian formations, could draw no line between these and those of North Wales, which Sedgwick had classed as Cambrian. Finding the same

<sup>1</sup> From "Cambria," the old name of Wales. Brit. Assoc. August 1835, *Phil. Mag.* vol. vii. (December 1835), p. 483, "On the Silurian and Cambrian Systems" by A. Sedgwick and R. I. Murchison.

<sup>2</sup> *Op. cit.*