

fossils in both, they felt themselves constrained to class them all under the same designation of Silurian. Murchison, of course, had no objection to the indefinite extension of his system. Sedgwick, however, after some delay, protested against what he considered to be an unjustifiable appropriation of territory which he had himself conquered. And thus arose a misunderstanding between these two old comrades, which deepened ere long into a permanent estrangement.

It is not my intention to enter here into the details of this unhappy controversy.¹ My only object in referring to it is to point out how far we are indebted to Sedgwick for the establishment of the Cambrian system. He eventually traced through a part of the Welsh border a marked unconformability between the Upper Silurian formations and everything below them, and he proposed that his Cambrian system should be carried up to that physical break, and should thus include Murchison's Lower Silurian formations. But as these formations had been defined stratigraphically and palæontologically before he had been able to get his fossils from North Wales examined, they obviously had the right of priority. And the general verdict of geologists went in favour of Murchison.

While this dispute was in progress in Britain, a remarkable series of investigations by Joachim Barrande (1799-1883) had made known the extraordinary abundance and variety of Silurian fossils in Bohemia. This distinguished observer not only recognised the equivalents of Murchison's Upper and

¹ I have already given a full and, I believe, impartial account of it in my *Life of Murchison*.