It will be found, however, that this hitherto neglected sys-
tem yields in importance to none of the others, whether we
take into account its amazing depth, the great extent to
which it is developed both at home and abroad, the interest-
ing links which it furnishes in the zoölogical scale, or the
vast period of time which it represents. There are localities
in which the depth of the Old Red Sandstone fully equals
the elevation of Mount Ætna over the level of the sea, and
in which it contains three distinct groups of organic remains,

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Old Red Sandstone is of enormous thickness in Herefordshire,
Worcestershire, Shropshire, and South Wales, where it is seen to
crop out beneath the Coal Measures, and to repose on the Silurian
Rocks. In that region, its thickness has been estimated by Mr.
Murchison at no less than ten thousand feet. It consists there of —

" 1st. A quartzose conglomerate, passing downwards into chocolate-
red and green sandstone and marl.

" 2d. Cornstone and marl, (red and green argillaceous spotted marls,
with irregular courses of impure concretionary limestone, provin-
cially called Cornstone, mottled red and green ; remains of fishes.)

" 3d. Tilestone, (finely laminated hard reddish or green micaceous
or quartzose sandstones, which split into tiles ; remains of mollusca
and fishes.)

" I have already observed that fossils are rare in marls and sand-
stones in which the red oxide of iron prevails. In the Cornstone,
however, of the counties above mentioned, fishes of the genera Ceph-
alaspis and Onchus have been discovered. In the Tilestone, also,
Ichthyodorulites of the genus Onchus have been obtained, and a
species of Dipterus, with mollusca of the genera Avicula, Arca, Cucul-
læa, Terebratula, Lingula, Turbo, Trochus, Turritella, Bellerophon,
Orthoceras, and others.

" By consulting geological maps, the reader will perceive that, from
Wales to the north of Scotland, the Old Red Sandstone appears in
patches, and often in large tracts. Many fishes have been found in it
at Caithness, and various organic remains in the northern part of

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