

of England, so carefully described by Mr. Murchison in his *Silurian System*, shells are very abundant; and the fact may now be regarded as established, that the 'Tilestones of England' belong to a deposit contemporaneous with the ichthyolite beds of Caithness and Cromarty. They occupy the same place low in the base of the Old Red; and there is at least one ichthyolite common to both,* and which does not occur in the superior strata of the system in either country — the *Dipterus macrolepidotus*. The evidence that the fish and shells lived in the same period, and represent, therefore, the same formation, may be summed up in a single sentence. We learn from the Geology of Caithness that this species of *Dipterus* was unquestionably contemporary with all the other ichthyolites described; — we learn from the Geology of Herefordshire that the shells were as unquestionably contemporary with it. † These — the shells — are of a singularly mixed character, regarded as a group, uniting, says Mr. Murchison, forms at one time deemed characteristic of the more modern formations, — of the latter secondary, and even tertiary periods — with forms the most ancient, and which characterize the molluscous remains of the transition rocks. Turbinated shells and bivalves of well nigh the recent type may be found lying side by side with chambered *Orthoceratites* and *Terebratula*. ‡

The vegetable remains of the formation are numerous but obscure, consisting mostly of carbonaceous markings,

* *Silurian System*, part ii. p. 599.

† In Russia, too, as shown by the recent discoveries of Murchison, the Old Red fishes of Caithness, and the Old Red shells of Devonshire, may be found lying embedded in the same strata.

‡ *Silurian System*, part i. p. 183.