

rian fossils are said to occur," — a circumstance not unfrequent," it is added, "in the Mountain Limestone of Scotland." No one, however, is now more thoroughly convinced than Professor Nicol, that the Silurian organisms of Girvan are not organisms of the Carboniferous series; that, on the contrary, they definitely determine the place and age of the deposits in which they occur as Lower Silurian; and further, that they throw more light on the history of this ancient system, in its development in the southern Highlands, than the fossils of all our other Scottish localities put together.

In January 1848, Mr. Nicol, at that time Assistant Secretary of the London Geological Society, read before that body a paper on the Silurian Rocks of the Valley of the Tweed, which was afterwards published in the Journal of the Society. Even at a period so recent he could properly state, in his introduction, "that there is perhaps no extensive formation in the British islands of which we possess less certain geological knowledge than of the rocks constituting the great mountain chain which crosses the southern counties of Scotland from east to west." His paper, however, served to add considerably to the little previously known regarding the deposit. Among the fossils by which it was illustrated, Mr. Salter recognized the fragments of five genera of trilobites, and an equal number of genera of shells, chiefly brachiopods, all of a character indicative of the Lower Silurian group. About the same time a collection made from the Grauwackes of the shores of Kirkcudbright was submitted to the London Geological Society by Lord Selkirk, and was found to be of an Upper Silurian character; indeed, as appeared from the identity of some of the fossils, of the age of the Wenlock shale. In the May of the same year in which Professor Nicol submitted his paper to the public, the subject was still further elucidated in a valuable memoir, by Mr. Carrick Moore, Secretary to the Geological