

are yielding their organisms,—Dumfries, Galloway, and Peeblesshire their graptolites, and Girvan and its neighborhood its trilobites and its shells. The shores of the Solway near Kirkcudbright are furnishing, though still inadequately, their fossils of the *Upper* Silurian; and it seems not improbable that the Girvan locality may be yet found to furnish characteristic specimens of all the various deposits of the *Lower* Silurian, from those emphatically ancient beds beneath which only a single organism has yet been detected, up to those superior deposits of the Lower division in which the Dudley Trilobite (*Calymene Blumenbachii*) occurs, and which Sir Roderick Murchison regards as occupying the same, or nearly the same, horizon as the *Upper Caradoc*. I am informed by our accomplished brother member, Professor Wyville Thomson, that in a recent visit to Girvan, he found, in an ancient Conglomerate to the south of the town, specimens of a small lingula and olenus, identical, so far as he could judge from their state of keeping, with the fossils of unquestionably the same genera which mark, in the sister kingdom, the primeval zone of life. It would be interesting to find in our own country, as has already been found in North America, England, and Scandinavia, a base line,—representative, apparently, of the earliest age of organized being,—from whence to commence the geologic history of what our fathers used to term, without quite knowing all that was implied in the epithet, *old* Scotland. But whether this base line of the oldest fossiliferous system be found in our country or no, the system itself, especially as developed within the southern and western districts, must be held to possess a peculiar interest, from the circumstance that, though some of its more curious fossils have not yet been found in the amply developed and well-sought Silurians of England, they occur in those of Bohemia on the one hand, and of Canada West and the United States on the other. They thus form in the gen-