

and to one of these, from the light which it throws on the true place in the scale of a series of deposits in a sister country, there attaches no little interest. I owe my specimen to Mr John Stewart of Edinburgh, who laid it open in a micaceous red sandstone in the quarry of Prestonhaugh, near Dunse, where it is associated with some of the better-known ichthyic organisms of the Upper Old Red Sandstone, such as *Pterichthys major* and *Holoptychius Nobilissimus*. Existing as but a deep red film in the rock, with a tolerably well-defined outline, but without trace of the characteristic venation on which the fossil botanist, in dealing with the ferns, founds his generic distinctions, I could only determine that it was either a *Cyclopteris* or a *Neuropteris*. My collection was visited, however, by the late lamented Edward Forbes, only a few weeks before his death; and he at once recognised in my Berwickshire fern, so unequivocally an organism of the Upper Old Red, the *Cyclopteris Hibernicus* of those largely developed beds of yellow sandstone which form so marked a feature in the geology of the south of Ireland, and whose true place, whether as Upper Old Red or Lower Carboniferous, has been the subject of so much controversy. I had been previously introduced by Professor Forbes, in the Museum of Economic Geology in Jermyn Street, London, to an interesting collection of plants from these yellow beds, and had an opportunity afforded me of examining the only ichthyic organism hitherto found associated with them; and was struck, though I could not identify its species, with its peculiarly Old Red aspect; but the evidence of the *Cyclopteris* is of course more conclusive than that of the *Neuropteris*. "The evidence could have been in the living plant." Mr Duncan accompanies his description with a figure of the organism described, which, however, rather resembles the bulb of a lilicaceous plant than the root of a calamite, which in all the better preserved specimens contracts instead of expanding, as it descends. The apparent expansion, however, in the Old Red specimen may be simply a result of compression in the upper part; the under part certainly much resembles, in the dome-like symmetry of its outline, the radical termination of a solitary calamite.