

trated by numerous veins of granite. These strata much more closely resemble the Lower than the Upper Laurentian rocks of Canada, and though, at so great a distance from America, it is impossible to prove that they are equivalent formations, the presumption that they are of Laurentian age is very strong, and not the less so that strata, having all the characters of Cambrian rocks, lie quite unconformably upon them, fig. 54, p. 285. The district was first described by Sir Roderick Murchison. I can answer for the accuracy of his descriptions, having inspected the ground with him, and personally mapped a portion of the country at and about Durness. I know of no other part of the British Islands in which Laurentian strata certainly occur.¹ No fossils have yet been observed in these British rocks.

The CAMBRIAN and SILURIAN ROCKS of the British series come next in succession. If these strata were to be classified for the first time in England, with my present knowledge, I would divide them into three, as the most convenient method. The first series would include the purple and green grits and slates of the Longmynd and Wales, and range upward as high as the top of the Tremadoc slates; the second would range from the base of the Arenig slates to the top of the Bala or Caradoc beds, and the third from the base of the Upper Llandovery beds to the top of the Ludlow rocks. In Wales and its neighbourhood, where the most typical series is found, each of these great boundary lines is marked by unconformity, and analogous unconformities are more or less found elsewhere in the British Islands.

¹ After their discovery by Murchison, the Laurentian rocks and other details in the Highlands were mapped by Professor Geikie, F.R.S. See his Geological Map of Scotland, 1876.