

in either case. In the latter, certain remarkable events induce us to break it into periods, characterised by special events, which were always led up to gradually by broad changes of power or of opinion. In the former, there are often great breaks in the chain of geological history, which, locally, are not filled up by stratigraphical deposits, and which under these circumstances form definite geological epochs, while in other cases (as in Civil history), the change of conditions was so great in given areas, that the new series of events may be locally classed as constituting new geological epochs. This is eminently the case when we attempt to realise the history of the Old Red Sandstone, as locally and physically distinct from that of the Contemporaneous Devonian, strata.