

deposition of the limestone may account for the total absence of fossils in the larger part of the formation. Whether or not the water was too salt for the healthy production of numerous shells and corals, is a question I have not yet attempted to solve, being in the meanwhile content to prove (as I think) that the waters formed inland lakes, that lay in a large continent which began in Old Red Sandstone times, but had undergone many modifications in its physical geography before the Permian lake-basins came into existence.