

atmospheric agencies, and also by the action of the waves of the sea of a younger Silurian period, the evidence of which is seen in the conglomerates of the Upper Llandovery beds, which, mingled with marine shells, lie unconformably on the denuded edges of the Cambrian and Lower Silurian strata of the Longmynd in Shropshire, like a consolidated sea beach. Slow submergence then took place beneath the Upper Silurian sea, in which the Upper Silurian rocks were gradually accumulated unconformably till, perhaps, they entirely buried the Lower Silurian strata (2, fig. 57), for in places they attained a thickness of from three to six thousand feet.

As shown in Chapter VIII. the uppermost Upper Silurian beds of Wales pass insensibly into a newer series, known as the Old Red Sandstone (3, fig. 57), formed, if we include the entire formation, of beds of red marl, sandstone, and conglomerate, which in all the British areas by the absence of marine shells, and the occasional presence of crocodilians, land reptiles, and of fish (whose nearest allies live in the rivers and lakes of America and Africa, or in the brackish pools of Australia), seem to have been deposited in lakes. In Wales these strata again pass upwards into the Carboniferous Limestone, which is overlaid in Wales, Derbyshire, and Lancashire, by the Millstone Grit and the Coal-measures.<sup>1</sup>

In Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, and Scotland, the Carboniferous Limestone has no pretension to be ranked as a special formation, for it is broken up into a number of bands interstratified with masses of

<sup>1</sup> This is not shown in fig. 57, but the Carboniferous Limestone No. 4 is shown in fig. 67, p. 330, lying, as it does in North Wales, unconformably on Silurian rocks.