

The Potsdam Sandstone from northern New York to Minnesota appears to be the lowest formation above the Eozoic crystalline rocks. The copper-bearing rocks are older, but it is not yet decided whether we should regard them as embraced in the Palæozoic System or not. There is also, in Wisconsin and Minnesota, a massive quartzite formation underneath the Potsdam Sandstone; but as it is not fully proved to contain any fossils, we are not certain whether to call it Eozoic or not. But in Vermont, in eastern Massachusetts and in New Brunswick, are slates which underlie the Potsdam and contain fossils. ("Acadian" or "St. John" Group). Some of these were Trilobites ten to twenty inches long.

Down in these lowest Palæozoic strata we find also, other remains of animal types. Here for instance, are "chambered shells"—the grandfathers of those described in the last Talk. We find here *Or-thoc'e-ras*, as well as some marked deviations from it. Here are the oldest examples known of this type. Here, we might say, was its first introduction to the world; and we might begin to query how it came here. We should be inclined to think it was an *abrupt* introduction, without predecessors gradually more and more simple as we should trace them into remoter ages. If an abrupt introduction, it was *not* an evolution from some older form, because evolution proceeds by gradual transitions. Such is the conclusion of some scientific men; and if we were obliged to form a conclusion on the whole question from the facts connected with the first appearance of chambered shells, I think we should all say they did not appear according to the method of evolution. We must be candid, however, and consider all the circumstances. We only wish to ascertain how the facts were—not to make ourselves think them different from the reality. If chambered shells appeared according to evolution, that is the thing we want to know; and it would be a pity to make ourselves believe something not in accordance with God's ordination of things. Now we know full well that the rocks older than the Cambrian have been subjected to such actions since they were deposited as ocean-sediments, that their aspect is totally trans-