

older greywacke in Germany and Belgium a complex of strata sometimes highly fossiliferous, and the indubitable equivalent in age of the Devonian system in Great Britain.

The fossil remains from the Palæozoic rocks of Cornwall, Devon, and West Somerset were described by Sowerby (1837), and were again worked out by John Phillips in 1841. Phillips¹ revised very carefully and established more securely the palæontological sequence of Devonian sub-divisions which had been proposed by De la Beche, Murchison and Sedgwick, and Lonsdale. In their earlier papers, Murchison and Sedgwick had sometimes designated the Silurian deposits as Palæozoic, and the Cambrian as Protozoic. Phillips suggested (1841) that the name *Palæozoic* should be applied to all the strata of the "Transitional" series (the Cambrian, Silurian, and Devonian of British geologists), together with the Carboniferous system and the Zechstein; that the name *Mesozoic* should be applied to the Secondary deposits, and *Cainozoic* to the Tertiary. This nomenclature rapidly found favour, and is now universally accepted.

Until about the year 1840, geologists had derived their information regarding the Cambrian, Silurian, and Devonian deposits only from regions in which the strata show great tectonic disturbances and complicated relations. The news that these rocks occurred in Russia over wide tracts of territory, and in an almost horizontal position, aroused the interest of Murchison to such a degree that in 1840 he undertook a journey in company with Verneuil to the Baltic Sea Provinces. In the following year Murchison made that important expedition to the Ural mountains, whose outstanding result was not only the proof of the wide extension of Silurian and Devonian deposits in Russia, but also the erection of the "Permian System."

His continued researches on the Palæozoic formations had led Murchison to conclude that the Cambrian deposits examined by Sedgwick in North Wales contained no fossils

¹ John Phillips, born 1800 at Marden in Wiltshire, was the nephew of William Smith, and was guided by this great master into geological studies. In the year 1824 he was commissioned to arrange the museum of York, and he was for ten years occupied in carrying out similar commissions in other towns, finally in London, Dublin, and Oxford. In 1834 he was appointed Professor of Geology at King's College in London, in 1844 Professor of Geology in Dublin, and in 1856 he succeeded Buckland as Professor of Geology in Oxford. He died in April 1874.