

and lovable of all the master minds who have shaped geological science into its present form.

By the establishment of the Cambrian and Silurian systems a vast stride was made in the process of reducing the chaos of Greywacke into settled order. But there still remained a series of rocks in that chaos which could not be claimed as either Cambrian or Silurian, and did not yield fossils which would show them to be Carboniferous. Before any dispute arose between Sedgwick and Murchison as to the respective limits of their domains in Wales, they were led to undertake a conjoint investigation which resulted in the creation of the Devonian system. The story of the addition of this third chapter to early Palæozoic history may be briefly told.

It had long been known that Greywacke or Transition rocks cover most of the counties of Devon and Cornwall. Closer examination of that region had shown that a considerable tract of Greywacke, now known as Culm-measures, contains abundant carbonaceous material, and even yields fossil plants that were recognised as identical with some of those in the Carboniferous system. It was at first supposed by De la Beche that these plant-bearing rocks lie below the rest of the Greywacke of that part of the country. Murchison, however, from the evidence of his clear sections in the Silurian territory, felt convinced that there must be some mistake in regard to the supposed position of these rocks, for he had traversed all the Upper Greywacke along the Welsh border, and had found it to contain no land-plants at all, but to be full of marine shells. He induced Sedgwick to join him in an