

## 432 *Establishment of the Devonian System*

a marine fauna which must have flourished between the Silurian and the Carboniferous periods. That fauna was not represented in the Old Red Sandstone, which, with its traces of land-plants and remains of ganoid fishes, appeared to have been accumulated under other geographical conditions. To distinguish the series of rocks containing this well-marked facies of marine organisms, they chose the name "Devonian," from the county where these rocks were originally studied and where their true position was first ascertained.<sup>1</sup> The authors claimed that the establishment of the Devonian system was "undoubtedly the greatest change which has ever been attempted at one time in the classification of British rocks." But it was far more than that. It was the determination of a new geological series of world-wide significance, the unfolding of a new chapter in the geological annals of our globe. Soon after Sedgwick and Murchison had finally announced to the Geological Society their reform of the geology of Devonshire, they started for Rhineland, the Harz and Fichtelgebirge, and succeeded in demonstrating that the Devonian system is more extensively and completely developed there than in its original Devonshire home.

I have dwelt on those labours of Sedgwick and Murchison which more especially place their names among those of the founders of geology. But besides these exploits they each accomplished a vast amount of admirable work, and helped thereby to widen the bounds and strengthen the foundations of the science to which they devoted their lives. To enter upon

<sup>1</sup> *Trans. Geol. Soc.*, 2nd ser. vol. v. pp. 688, 701 (April 1839).