

that the so-called "Cambrian" is absolutely composed of undulations of my Silurian rocks, there is no question at issue.' Thus 'all the fossils of the region of Cambria or North Wales (down to the Lingula-beds inclusive) are now classed as Silurian.'

The term Cambrian was in fact restricted to the unfossiliferous rocks of the Longmynd in Shropshire and to the Harlech Grits and Llanberis Slates in the western portion of North Wales; and Murchison argued that 'the proposed application of the word "Cambrian" must necessarily cause an alteration of a fundamental character in the nomenclature used in every memoir and work on rocks of this age during the last ten or eleven years.'

He concluded by assuring

'Those who do not understand the nature of the social union of the members of the Geological Society, that the controversy which has prevailed between the eloquent Woodwardian Professor and myself has not for a moment interrupted our strong personal friendship. I am indeed confident we shall slide down the hill of life with the same mutual regard which animated us formerly when climbing together many a mountain both at home and abroad.'¹

He had expressed similar sentiments, in almost identical language, in the course of discussion with Sedgwick, printed elsewhere at this period;² and Sedgwick had replied

'To the concluding words of my friend's comment I express my heartfelt concurrence. When we went round the Highlands of Scotland in 1827, I was then his superior in physical endurance, but a quarter of a century has, alas! made me but a sorry labourer in the field. Still I am not without hopes of again meeting him in his true Silurian country, and endeavouring to settle, along with him, one or two minute and not laborious questions of demarcation.'

This, however, was not to be. Sedgwick was then sixty-seven years of age, and Murchison was sixty.

¹ *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* viii. 1852, pp. 173-184.

² *Edin. New Phil. Journ.* lii. 1852, pp. 106, 303, 356; liii. 1852, 108, 114, 119.