

year to the British Association his matured views 'On the Classification and Nomenclature of the Older Palæozoic Rocks of Britain.' This paper was printed in full, and was regarded as the most important he had brought before the Association.¹

While Sedgwick's views were thus placed before the geological public, Murchison brought out, in 1854, the first edition of his octavo volume, 'Siluria: the History of the Oldest Known Rocks containing Organic Remains'—a volume that summarised in some ways, and amplified in others, the material of his larger work on the 'Silurian System.' The knowledge of the Lower Palæozoic rocks acquired in all quarters of the globe was dealt with. The secondary title was afterwards appropriately modified into 'A History of the Oldest Rocks in the British Isles and Other Countries.' This work reached a fifth edition in 1872, and organic remains were then admitted to occur not only in Cambrian, but even in Laurentian rocks.

In the first edition of his 'Siluria' (1854, p. 10), Murchison said that if Sedgwick's work 'had been published eighteen years ago, or in 1836, my friend, seeing that his Bala and my Llandeilo rocks were identical, might have proposed (although my fossils were first named and classified) that the Lower Silurian should be merged in the Cambrian.' Sedgwick had, indeed, at one time proposed a compromise, 'that of calling the Bala group Cambro-Silurian. This compromise was rejected by Murchison, and was afterwards withdrawn.'² Such a course, if accepted, would have been honourable alike to both disputants.

Murchison afterwards, in 1852, suggested that the *lower half* of Sedgwick's fossiliferous Cambrian might be called Cambro-Silurian;³ but this naturally did not meet the approval of his friend.

¹ *Rep. Brit. Assoc. for 1853, Sections*, p. 54.

² Preface to 'Catalogue of Cambrian and Silurian Fossils,' by J. W. Salter, 1873, p. xxviii.

³ 'Life of Murchison,' vol. ii. p. 142.