

of the Mississippi, the west coast of North America, and the mountains of South America. Again, the labors of Prof. Sedgwick and Sir R. Murchison, in 1836, '7, and '8, aided by the sagacity of Mr. Lonsdale, led to their placing certain rocks of Devon and Cornwall as a formation intermediate between the Silurian and Carboniferous Series; and the *Devonian System* thus established has been accepted by geologists in general, and has been traced, not only in various parts of Europe, but in Australia and Tasmania, and in the neighborhood of the Alleghanies.

Above the Carboniferous Series, Sir R. Murchison and his fellow laborers, M. de Verneuil and Count Keyserling, have found in Russia a well-developed series of rocks occupying the ancient kingdom of Permian, which they have hence called the *Permian formation*; and this term also has found general acceptance. The next group, the Keuper, Muschelkalk, and Bunter Sandstein of Germany, has been termed *Trias* by the continental geologists. The *Neocomien* is so called from Neuchatel, where it is largely developed. Below all these rocks come, in England, the *Cambrian*, on which Prof. Sedgwick has expended so many years of valuable labor. The comparison of the Protozoic and Hypozoic rocks of different countries is probably still incomplete.

The geologists of North America have made great progress in deciphering and describing the structure of their own country; and they have wisely gone, in a great measure, upon the plan which I have commended at the end of the third Chapter;—they have compared the rocks of their own country with each other, and given to the different beds and formations names borrowed from their own localities.

This course will facilitate rather than impede the reduction of their classification to its synonyms and equivalents in the old world.

Of course it is not to be expected nor desired that books belonging to Descriptive Geology shall exclude the other two branches of the subject, Geological Dynamics and Physical Geology. On the contrary, among the most valuable contributions to both these departments have been speculations appended to descriptive works. And this is naturally and rightly more and more the case as the description embraces a wider field. The noble work *On the Geology of Russia and the Urals*, by Sir Roderick Murchison and his companions, is a great example of this, as of other merits in a geological book. The author introduces into his pages the various portions of geological dynamics of which I shall have to speak afterwards; and thus endeavors to make out the