

States was undertaken by C. D. Walcott, whose results showed that, as Emmons had contended, the Taconic system was a well-developed complex of strata below the Potsdam Sandstone, and containing an exclusively primordial fauna.

Walcott then went to survey in the Far West, where Gilbert and Hague had described Cambrian deposits in the Eureka district of Nevada. In several important publications (1884-90) Walcott has elucidated with full details the extension, lithological character, stratigraphical relations, subdivisions, and fauna of the Cambrian system in North America.

The "Transitional Rocks" in the vicinity of Prague had very early attracted the attention of collectors and geologists on account of the profuse abundance of fossils, and these had been made the subject of palæontological memoirs by Born, Count Sternberg, Beyrich, Emmrich, Corda, and others. The first geological work of note in this district was accomplished by Joachim Barrande.<sup>1</sup> By his life's devotion to the cause of research, this quiet, retiring geologist made Bohemia classic ground for the study of the oldest fossiliferous formations.

In the year 1846 Barrande published a short account of the Bohemian Silurian basin. He described its structure as consisting of a number of stages (*Étages*), which he designated by the letters A to G. The succession, stratigraphical position, and the fossil contents were determined with the utmost precision, and a comparison was instituted between the Bohemian

<sup>1</sup> Joachim Barrande, born on the 11th August 1799, in Sanges (Haute Loire), was educated in Paris, and intended to be an engineer, but left Paris in 1820 with the banished Royal Family of France, following them at first to England and Scotland, and then to Bohemia. In the year 1831 he became tutor to Prince Henry of Chambord, with whom he continued in intimate relations all his life as the administrator of the Prince's property. After relinquishing his post of tutor, Barrande devoted himself to the geological and palæontological investigation of the Silurian basin of Bohemia. He acquired an unrivalled collection of fossils: no trouble was spared to secure the spoils of the rocks: quarries were opened, workmen engaged, collectors kept constantly occupied and carefully trained, until Barrande's collection in Prague became the admiration of the geological world. His private life was uneventful. He lived quietly and simply, and the only interruption to his monotonous existence was when he undertook some longer journey for the sake of comparing his fossils and his stratigraphical results. He had considerable private means, which he almost entirely sacrificed to his scientific requirements. He died in October 1883, at Count Chambord's estate of Frohsdorf. Barrande bequeathed his valuable fossil collection to the Bohemian Museum.