

To the Editor of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR,—I have two or three new palæontological facts to communicate, and I do not wish to keep my brother palæontologists waiting till I shall have leisure, which like “to-morrow, never comes.”

*Imprimis*.—The earliest trilobite we know in Britain, is not *Paradoxides*, as usually supposed; it is a large and well developed species of *Conocoryphe*, *C. bufo*, which will be figured by Mr. H. Hicks and myself in our forthcoming work on “The Geology of St. Davids.”

2. The Arenig and Skiddaw group of Sedgwick, long known, but only lately defined by its fossils, is disclosing in various ways its fossil contents, and is unequivocally the representative of the Stiper Stones series, which Murchison, in his last edition of *Siluria*, insisted on considering as the true *Lingula* flags.

I have every reason to believe too, and shall give you my reasons for so thinking, shortly, that the anomalous fauna of the French Silurians of Angers and Brittany generally, is to be referred to this date; and in all probability the “Budleigh Salterton,” excluding its mixture of Devonian forms, is referable to this important period also. My first suggestion is thus refuted: for I thought it, in the paper you did me the honor to print,<sup>1</sup> the equivalent of our Llandeilo, or possibly our Lower Llandovery rock group.

3. The Lower Llandovery, or as I prefer to call it with Prof. Phillips the “Llandovery rocks,” are intimately united with the Caradoc, and pass up from them with a great admixture of Lower Silurian, not Upper Silurian forms. The May Hill Sandstone, on the contrary, as Sedgwick showed in 1853, is as unequivocally the base of the Upper Silurian, and contains scarcely any true Lower types.

4. The Downton Sandstone is the natural top of the Ludlow series, and is quite distinct from the “Passage beds,” of Murchison, which I have for some time called the “Ledbury shales.” In the Downton rock of Kington, Herefordshire, my friend, Richard Banks, Esq., has for more than two years, I think, discovered the tracks of an animal, which, in your June number I hope to show, is the track of *Pteraspis*, our oldest fish. I owe it to Mr. Banks, who gave me the specimens, unique they are at present, to withhold his discovery no longer. The fish had apparently a bony crutch or spine in advance of the pectoral fin, and the tracks are accordingly double, on each side.

I am, Dear Sir, truly yours,

J. W. SALTER.

April 16, 1866.

I will only add that, with respect to the Devonian controversy, our excellent field geologist, Prof. Harkness, having lately visited Devon, has returned, convinced that the Devon rocks are all sub-carboniferous.—J. W. S.

<sup>1</sup> GEOL. MAG., 1864, Vol. I., p. 5.