



Laurentian. (a)  
 Cambrian. (b)  
 Lower Quartz Rock. (c')  
 Upper Quartz Rock etc (c'')

<sup>A</sup> 235.  
30.

# SILURIA.

A HISTORY OF

## THE OLDEST ROCKS IN THE BRITISH ISLES AND OTHER COUNTRIES;

WITH SKETCHES OF THE ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE GOLD,  
THE GENERAL SUCCESSION OF GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS,  
AND CHANGES OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

BY SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B.,

LATE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE BRITISH ISLES;  
PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,  
ETC., ETC.

FIFTH EDITION.

*WITH MAP AND TWO HUNDRED ILLUSTRATIONS.*

LONDON:  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1872.

<sup>A</sup>

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"The men who begin with speculation and end with facts begin at the wrong end; the firmest materials should be in the foundation."—SIR HUMPHRY DAVY.

"The crust of the earth is a great cemetery, where the rocks are tombstones on which the buried dead have written their own epitaphs."—AGASSIZ.

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Dedication.

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TO

SIR WILLIAM LOGAN, LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S.,

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA,

I DEDICATE THIS NEW EDITION OF

SILURIA.

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*THE original 'Silurian System' having been dedicated to my eminent associate, PROFESSOR SEDGWICK, the earliest Edition of this Work was dedicated to my predecessor in office, SIR HENRY T. DE LA BECHE, who first adopted the use of the Silurian Classification in the publications and maps of the Geological Survey of Britain.*

*The last Edition was naturally inscribed to my valued contemporaries, E. DE VERNEUIL, A. VON KEYSERLING, and JOACHIM BARRANDE, by whose labours the Silurian System has been successfully extended to various parts of the world.*

A

*I now dedicate this Volume to the Geologist who has not only applied my classification to the vast regions of British North America, but has taught us by his recent important researches that the Laurentian Rocks constitute the foundation-stones of all Palæozoic deposits in the crust of the Globe, wherever their Foundations are known.*

RODERICK IMPEY MURCHISON.

Belgrave Square, London,

July 10, 1867.