

on the Great Skellig, yet could not rely upon an uncorroborated report as proof of the vertical distance at which the sea can occasionally act upon the weather side of a lofty rock. Its agency in forming some isolated pinnacles has not been denied.

Truly yours, A. B. WYNNE.

LONDON, February 5th, 1867.

#### FISH IN THE DEVONIAN (NOT OLD RED) ROCKS.

To the Editor of the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE.

SIR,—As there is still much misapprehension afloat as to the value of the fossil evidence in the case of “Devonian *versus* Old Red,” it is desirable to clear up any doubtful points. I believe it is admitted pretty generally that the greater part (not all, of course, of the so-called Carboniferous shells, crinoids, &c., in our Devonian lists are erroneous identifications, made upon very imperfect specimens. At least I can answer for this in the greater part of those which have come under my review (see the revised names in the lower gallery, Museum P. Geol. Jermyn-street, and their catalogue); and Mr. Davidson has shown us the same thing in his careful monograph of the Carboniferous Brachiopods. There are a few exceptions, and, of course, these multiply in the highest beds.

But what about the Fish? It has been shown by many authors that Old Red fish occur in Devonian strata, and Devonian shells in Old Red Sandstone; and in a memoir laid before the Geological Society (Quart. Jour. Geol. vol. xix., p. 474, *et seq*), some years back, I endeavoured to collate these scattered evidences, and add others from personal survey, which would show that the *Upper Devonian* fossils were found in *Upper Old Red* rocks; *Middle* Old Red fish were found in *Middle* Devonian; and, to complete the evidence derived from fossils, a *Cephalaspid*, from the undoubted *Lower* Devonian of the Rhenish provinces shewed that *Lower* Old Red meant *Lower* Devonian. In the absence of any physical evidence that the strata are not contemporaneous, it seemed to me that these fossil data were sufficient for the affirmative side of the question.

But it is argued by some that *Coccosteus*, found in the Eifel and in Russia with the shells, is, with us, as much an Upper as a Middle Old Red form. And, moreover, that while *Holoptychius* (an undoubted upper Old Red fossil), has been found in the N. Devon rocks in its proper place. *Phyllolepis* has occurred in the lowest portion of the S. Devon series, near Torquay. Does any one know exactly where the specimen is on which this decision is founded? It used to be said that at Polperro, in Cornwall, in the Lower Devonian beds, fish were common. Professor M'Coy determined these to be sponge remains. Has any competent authority seen the *Phyllolepis*, and is the locality certain?

J. W. SALTER.