

THE DEVONIAN QUESTION.

SIR.—It is with much pleasure I have read Mr. Champernowne's communication on "The Devonian Question" (*GEOL. MAGAZINE*, March, p. 125). Knowing how sedulously he has been studying the Devonshire rocks for some years past, I regard his opinion as of great value; and, therefore, when I find it to be confirmatory of the views I ventured to suggest, I am strengthened in the belief that they are (to use Mr. Champernowne's own words) "in the main legitimate deductions from the facts, and not mere theory." The evidence which Mr. Champernowne has adduced of the Silurian affinities of the Foreland Sandstones is of much importance at the present time—because it bears by a reflex process of reasoning on the question of the age of the supposed representative beds—those of the Glengarriff and Dingle series in the South of Ireland; a question which is still *sub judice*.

As regards the suggested unconformity at the base of the Pickwell Down Sandstone, it is in no way necessary to my argument; and I am quite content to abandon the idea on the statements of two of my friendly critics. But I would suggest to Mr. Champernowne, in reference to the difficulty he feels regarding the S. Wales district (Professor Geikie's "Welsh Lake"), whether there may not be a break between the "Pebbly beds and Conglomerate" and the "Cornstone" series, etc., of Monmouthshire ("*Siluria*," 4th edit. p. 245), the former of which I cannot but regard as the equivalent of the Pickwell Down Sandstone.

As Mr. Champernowne has anticipated my reply to Mr. Hall and Mr. Ussher (though probably the latter has by this time discovered that he had entirely misunderstood the purport of my paper), it is scarcely necessary that I should add anything to his statements. I will, therefore, only ask him in conclusion to weigh the evidence I have adduced in the same number of the *GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE*, p. 129, for believing that the Red Sandstone and Conglomerate of the South of Ireland, which passes up into Griffith's "Yellow Sandstone," is really the representative of the true "Old Red Sandstone" of other districts, and not merely the base of the Carboniferous Series.

EDWARD HULL.

DUBLIN, 10th *March*, 1879.

 MISCELLANEOUS.

FOSSILS FROM THE DIAMOND FIELDS, SOUTH AFRICA.—Mr. George J. Lee, of Kimberly, Griqua-land West, has forwarded, through His Excellency Colonel Lanyon, the Governor of the Colony, to Sir Joseph D. Hooker, C.B., for presentation to the British Museum, part of a carbonized¹ branch of a Coniferous tree (found 195 feet below the surface in Claim 196); a fragment of a fossil fish (*Palaeoniscus*) of Triassic age; and four casts of portions of the vertebral columns and ribs, and a foot of small Dicynodont reptiles, preserved as hollow moulds, in finely laminated and friable shale. Also numerous pyritised bodies, possibly replacing some organism. The Reptilian remains have been submitted to Prof. Owen, C.B., who will notice them more fully hereafter. The fossil wood will be examined by Mr. W. Carruthers, F.R.S.

¹ Resembling charcoal in its mineral condition.