


Selborne, (a spot familiar, from the classical pages of Mr. White, to all who can be interested either in natural history or elegant literature); on the west, those skirting the vale of Warminster; on the north, Inkpen hill, the loftiest summit of this formation, attaining the height of 1011 feet above the level of the sea on the south of Salisbury. A great part of the area so included, is well known by the name of Salisbury plain. The whole of this district consists of an elevated platform, distinguished only by gentle elevations of surface, and covered by a scanty herbage. It is intersected by fewer vallies than the chains formerly described; of these, the principal is that of the Salisbury Avon, which, rising in the substrata of the vale of Pewsey, breaks through the chalky tract, as do its tributary streams on the west, the Willy and the Nodder; in the center the river Anton, rising within the chalk, descends towards Southampton water; and on the east the river Barge flows by Winchester to the same point.

In order to illustrate the relations of this central mass, and the branches diverging from it, we may compare the whole line of the chalk with its ramifications, to the small letter k in

the common printed characters, placed obliquely, thus, :

the interior angles between the stem and the two branches, will represent the spaces occupied by the superior strata in the basins of London and the Isle of Wight; the exterior angle between these branches, the denuded and protruding area of inferior strata in Kent and Sussex; while the outer side of the stem will correspond with the general escarpment of the chalk towards the inferior strata on the north-west: the inosculation of the stem and branches, indicates the position of the great central mass, the breadth of which will be easily accounted for, when it is considered that this tract exhibits the total breadth of the chalk between its opposite escarpments towards the older formations; whereas in every other point, the interior area of the chalk is concealed by its superstrata, and its edges alone exposed to view.

It will at once be seen that the range of chalk, traced up to its junction with this central mass, is that represented by the upper part of the stem, and that it forms the north-west border of the London basin.

Another similar chain is detached from the north-east angle of the great central mass near Farnham, extending to the straits of Dover near Folkestone, (this corresponds to the upper branch of the k); it is well known under the name of the