

Thus, from the low and marshy grounds near Calais, and between that town and Uissant, a range of chalky cliff rises directly facing those of Dover, and exhibiting the same subdivisions of this formation, viz. 1. Chalk with flints, forming the summit of the cliffs; then in succession, 2. Chalk with few flints; 3. bed with organic remains; 4. Chalk without flints; 5. Grey chalk. This range of cliffs is however much more limited than that on the English side, not exceeding three miles in extent; it commences about a mile west of Sangatte, forming the cape called Blanc Nez, and stretches towards St. Pot. The strata rise, as on the English side, under a low angle westward; and are, near St. Pot, as at Folkstone, succeeded by the substrata of blue marle and green sand.

From Cape Blanc Nez, the chalky downs recede inland, ranging in a semicircle round the district of Boulogne, and approaching the coast again near Etaples. The included area is occupied by the inferior strata, and corresponds in position with the similar denudation (as it is termed) of Kent and Sussex: exhibiting, together with the same formations, some which are lower in the series; a careful comparison of these two districts would be interesting and important. We shall subjoin to our account of the English denudation, the few particulars we possess as to the French.

Though, as we have said, the southern extremity of the semicircular escarpment of the chalk again draws near the coast on the north of Etaples (thus answering the termination of the South downs at Beachey head on the English side), yet no cliffs, we believe (for we have not personally inspected this point), occur on the French side; but a range of sandy dunes, accumulated at the foot of the hills, preserves them from the destructive agency of the waves.

scarcely thirty feet thick, and that each of the overlying strata at the latter place, is thinner than those near Dover, in about the same proportion; so that the height of the cliffs on the opposite shores is very different;—that immediately on the west of Shakspeare's being not less than 500 feet, while that of Cape Blanc Nez does not exceed 300 feet in height. Hence, supposing the two countries to have been once united, it may be assumed that the several chalk strata became gradually thinner in approaching that part which now constitutes cliffs on the coast of France: hence also, it may be concluded that the country in the neighbourhood of Calais, once constituted a part of that tract which is now termed the chalk basin of London. (G. T. vol. v.)

It is not necessary, in order to account for the agreement of the opposite coasts, to suppose that chains of uniform height with those occupying the land on either side, once traversed the space now possessed by the waves; for it is very probable that these chains may, from their original formation, have had a lower level,—such as might carry them beneath the surface of the ocean in some part of their course. (C.)