

The following extract from the splendid work of Sir Henry Englefield on the ISLE OF WIGHT, describes certain geological changes still in progress on the shore near Ryde, that are well deserving the visitor's attention.

“A great and very singular change has taken place within no very distant period of time on the shores of the Solent, near to Ryde; and which seems to be still sensibly proceeding. When Fielding, in the year 1753, was at Ryde, on his voyage to Lisbon, he describes the town as totally inaccessible by sea, except at or near high water; as the tide, on its recess, left a vast extent of mud, too soft to bear the lightest weight. This mud-bank is now entirely covered by a stratum of fine white sand, smooth and firm enough to bear wheel-carriages, and which renders the bathing at all times safe and agreeable. This bed of sand now reaches to Binstead, having covered at least two miles of the shore within the last half century; and the inhabitants say that it is still extending to the westward. On digging through the sand, the old mud presently appears, the sand stratum being very thin. To what cause this change is owing it is difficult to guess; but it is an example of the alternation of deposits from the action of the sea, in circumstances apparently unchanged, which may afford cause for reflection to the geologist.” *

If the visitor have leisure, he should make a tour of this interesting island, from Ryde to Shanklin and Ventnor, along the beautiful scenery of the Under Cliff, formed by the slips of the Shanklin Sand; to Black Gang Chine, and Fresh-water Bay; visiting Brook Point (*Wond.* p. 358.) to collect fossils from the Wealden strata on the sea-shore.

* Sir H. Englefield's Isle of Wight, p. 16.