

SWINDON, WILTS.—Fourteen miles beyond the Faringdon station of the railway, we arrive at that of Swindon, where the trains stop ten minutes. About a mile from this station, on the rising ground to the south, stands the little, and formerly retired, town of SWINDON. Here, when a schoolboy, my curiosity was strongly excited by the petrified “*ram’s horns*,” and “*oak*,” so abundant in the solid masses of stone in the neighbouring quarries, and which daily came under my notice, in my rambles around the town. It is indeed a locality most prolific in the Ammonites and other shells, and in the fossil wood peculiar to the upper division of the Oolite formation—the Portland beds; the hill on which the town is built consisting of those strata. There is a comfortable Inn, the Goddard Arms, where the traveller will meet with the requisite accommodation; and when I last visited it, the waiter had many fossils of the Kimmeridge clay, from the neighbouring valley traversed by the railroad, and also from the limestone strata, for sale. The quarries, which are in the immediate vicinity of the town, abound in Ammonites, Trigonæ, and other shells; and some layers are entirely composed of the casts of several species. The Ammonites are principally of two kinds, viz. *A. biplex* and *A. triplicatus*, and vary in size from a few inches to two feet in diameter; the specimens are casts only, no vestiges of the shells remaining. At Aylesbury the same species occur in clay, with the shells entire