

CHAPTER XXV.

GEOLOGICAL EXCURSION TO MATLOCK.

————— “ In famed Attica such lovely dales
Are rarely seen; nor can fair Tempè boast
A charm they know not.”

LORD BYRON.

THE beautiful and romantic Dale of Matlock, although one hundred and forty-two miles distant, is now brought within nine hours of the metropolis. Leaving London from the Euston-square station of the Birmingham Railway, at eleven o'clock, (taking the precaution to have a ticket that will ensure a passage from Rugby by the *Midland* Counties Railroad to Derby), we pass over in succession the clays, sands, and beds of gravel, composing the *Tertiary* strata of the London basin; and at Watford, steep cuttings of these deposits are seen on each side of the station. A long tunnel through the *White Chalk* of Hertfordshire is then passed; and at Tring we arrive at the termination of the Chalk, and obtain a fine view of the north-west escarpment of the