

through the regions where they burn anthracite, to the east of the Alleghanies.

After enjoying the view for some time we began to descend rapidly, and at every step saw the forest, so leafless and wintry a few hours before, recover its foliage, till the trees and the climate spoke again of spring. I had passed several times over the Pyrenees and the Alps, and witnessed the changes of vegetation between the opposite flanks, or between the summits and base of those mountains; but this was the first time I had crossed a great natural barrier, and found on the other side people speaking the same language, and having precisely the same laws and political institutions.

The parallel ridges before alluded to, between Frostburg and Union, were formed partly of red sandstones (Old Red), but chiefly of white grit, the lowest member of the carboniferous group, each flexure or arch opening out and flattening as we went westward, in the manner explained in my description of the section at page 92, Vol. I., the strata at the same time becoming more and more horizontal.

At the town of Union, which may be said to lie at the western foot of the mountains, I had an opportunity of seeing coal exposed to view in an open quarry of building stone. The coal seam was three and a half feet thick, with an intervening layer, as usual, between it and the freestone of dark slate or shale, four feet thick. When traced farther, the shale thinned out gradually, and in a neighbouring quarry, about thirty yards distant, it gave place to the yellow micaceous sandstone, which then formed the roof of