

## CHAPTER XII.

Geological Coloring of the Landscape. — Close Proximity in this Neighborhood of the various Geologic Systems. — The Oolite ; its Medicinal Springs ; how formed. — Cheltenham. — Strathpeffer. — The Saliferous System ; its Organic Remains and Foot-prints. — Record of Curious Passages in the History of the Earlier Reptiles. — Salt Deposits. — Theory. — The Abstraction of Salt from the Sea on a large Scale probably necessary to the continued Existence of its Denizens. — Lower New Red Sandstone. — Great Geologic Revolution. — Elevation of the Trap. — Hills of Clent ; Era of the Elevation. — Coal Measures ; their three Forests in the Neighborhood of Wolverhampton. — Comparatively small Area of the Birmingham Coal-field. — Vast Coal-fields of the United States. — Berkeley's Prophecy. — Old Red Sandstone. — Silurian System. — Blank.

LET us now raise from off the landscape another integument, — let us remove the boulder clays and gravels, as we formerly removed the vegetable mould, and lay the rock everywhere bare. There is no longer any lack of color in the prospect ; it resembles, on the contrary, a map variously tinted by the geographer, to enable the eye to trace his several divisions, natural or arbitrary. The range of trap-hills which furnishes our peak of survey is of a deep olive-green ; the New Red Sandstone that spreads out so widely around it, of a bright brick-red. There is a coal-field on either hand, — the barren field of the Forest of Wyre, and the singularly productive field of Dudley ; and they both are irregularly checkered black, yellow, and gray. Beyond the Wyre field lies an immense district of a deep chocolate-red tint, — a huge development of the Old Red Sandstone. Still further beyond, we may discern in the distance a bluish-gray province of great extent, much broken