

sand, and, according to locality, of marine, estuarine, fresh-water, and even terrestrial origin ; marine in Dorset, Somerset, and Gloucestershire, partly passing into estuarine and fresh-water strata in Northamptonshire, at the very time, for example, that the marine sediments of the Stonesfield Slate, had washed in among them, from the neighbouring land, plants, insects, and marsupial mammals. Still further north, in Yorkshire, the equivalent of great part of the Inferior Oolite actually constitutes a coal-field, on a miniature scale, quite comparable, in its sandstones, shales, underclays, and beds of coal, to the broad and thick deposits of the Coal-measures, and showing the same kind of alternations of terrestrial and aquatic conditions, indicating, repeated filling by sediments of a certain area, its conversion into land, and its subsequent depression to receive new accessions of sands and shales.

These circumstances seem to me to agree, in a striking manner, with what may be surmised to have been the state of the geography of the neighbouring lands. In the south of what is now England the seas were broad and comparatively shallow, during all the time of the deposition of the Lower Oolites, and the islands round which these seas flowed (including Wales) were comparatively small. But further north we come to a fragment of a much larger land, formed of Palæozoic rocks, that in those days formed a mountainous country extending from the hills of Derbyshire far away to the northern extremity of Scotland, and how much further entire, or broken into islands, no man yet knows. In spite of disturbances of upheaval of later date than these Oolitic times, it may also very well have been that this old land was much higher than the highest Highland mountains of the present day, seeing the vast