of this vast Eocene continent. Of this, however, we may be sure, that somewhat altered in form and somewhat lowered by waste, the old Silurian lands of Wales, the north of England, and the Scottish mountains formed part of the Continent that gave birth to the Eocene river. The Eocene formations of the London basin all thin away as we pass from east to west, and it seems as if originally there had been a landward edge to the estuary in that direction, and possibly, but quite uncertainly, the river may have flowed through wide lands that stretched far to the west and north-west, or, on the other hand, it may have flowed through broad tracts of what is now part of the Continent of Europe. However that may be, I have no doubt that tributary streams poured into it from the west and north-west, for to my mind it is certain, that beyond the original edge of these Eocene formations, the Chalk spread far to the west, till it abutted on and probably rose high on the sides of the mountains of Wales, and passing westward on the south through the area of the present Bristol Channel, and on the north, across the space now occupied by the estuaries of the Dee and the Mersey, the Chalk of England formed a broad undulating plain, united to the Chalk of Antrim and the Cretaceous rocks of what is now the Western Isles of Scotland, which then formed part of the mainland, long before those volcanic eruptions took place that overspread the Chalk of Antrim with sheets of basalt, and gave rise to the present mountain scenery of the Inner Hebrides. If so, these upraised Cretaceous strata must have spread westward into areas now covered by the Atlantic, but of its actual extent nothing is certainly known.

Such is a general sketch of what I believe to have been the state of the Physical Geography of Britain