

## CHAPTER XVI.

## MIOCENE EPOCH.

THE MIOCENE STRATA in England play a very unimportant part, in a physical point of view, excepting that the remains of many land plants which they contain give a high interest to these deposits from the light they throw on the climate of the time.

These strata lie not far from the mass of granite that forms the high ground of Dartmoor Forest, the highest point of which, called Yes Tor, is about 2,050 feet above the sea. At the foot of this mountain land there is a plain, of a kind of pear-shaped form, stretching, about seven and a half miles in length, between the neighbourhood of Bovey Tracey and Aller Mills, near Newton Abbot. It is about three miles in its greatest width from Blackpool to Knighton, two miles south-west of Chudleigh.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For these and some other details I am indebted to Mr. Horace B. Woodward, of the Geological Survey, who lately re-mapped the Bovey Tracey district, and also to the joint work of Mr. William Pengelly F.R.S. and the well known botanist, Professor Oswald Heer of Zurich, whose masterly description of the plants of the Bovey beds threw the first clear light on the geological age of the strata. See Woodward's 'Geology of England and Wales,' and 'On the Lignite Formation of Bovey Tracey,' by Messrs Pengelly and Heer, 'Philosophical Transactions,' 1862. The expense of the production and republication of this work was defrayed by the Baroness Burdett Coutts, who thereby conferred a boon on all students of Tertiary Geology.