

It is truly deserving of attention, that the vegetable fossils found in distant parts of the world, and under very different latitudes, are nearly identical with those in European coal-fields. The plants in the coal-fields of North America, and even the specimens from Greenland, are analogous to those in the English coal-fields; and the few specimens that have been obtained from the tropical regions in America, from New Holland, and from India, belong to the same families as those which we find in the coal strata of Europe. Now, if we admit these distant beds of coal to be of contemporaneous formation, we must admit also, that the temperature of the whole globe was, at that epoch, nearly the same, in very different latitudes; or were we to suppose that these coal-fields were formed in different epochs, we must still grant, that northern latitudes have once enjoyed the same temperature, as countries now do under the equator.

Before concluding these observations, I may be permitted to remark, that, however ancient the formation of coal and ironstone may have been, the frequent occurrence of these minerals together, both destined in future time to give to man an extensive empire over the elements, and to contribute largely to his means of civilization and comfort, cannot fail to impress the reflecting mind with evidence of prospective designing intelligence.*

* I here subjoin a section of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch coal-field; if ever we arrive at just conclusions respecting the origin of coal and ironstone, it must be by an accurate examination of the strata in which they occur, and the relation of these strata to each other; an investigation hitherto much neglected by geologists.

SECTION OF A COAL MINE, ASHBY WOLDS, LEICESTERSHIRE.

			Yds.	Ft.	In.				Yds.	Ft.	In.
		Soil and Clay, - -	2	0	0	5	{	Ironstone, - -	0	0	1
1	{	Blue clunch with iron-				5	{	Blue bind, - -	0	1	6
		stone, - - - -	1	2	5	6	{	Ironstone, - -	0	0	1
		COAL, - - - -	0	1	6	6	{	Blue bind, - -	0	1	6
		Blue bind, - - -	1	0	0	7	{	Ironstone, - -	0	0	1
		Stony bind, - -	0	1	2	7	{	Blue bind, - -	0	1	6
		Grey stone, - -	0	0	4	8	{	Ironstone, - -	0	0	1
		Stony bind, - -	1	0	9	8	{	Blue bind, - -	2	9	0
		Grey stone, - -	0	1	9			COAL, - - - -	1	0	0
		Blue bind, - - -	3	2	1½			Blue bind in two beds,	9	0	0
		Grey stone, - -	0	1	1			Stony bind, - -	1	1	0
		Rubly bind, - -	0	2	0			Grey stone, - -	3	0	0
		Blue bind, - - -	4	0	0	9	{	Blue bind, - -	0	1	6
		Black bat, - - -	0	2	0	9	{	Ironstone, - -	0	0	2
2	{	Blue bind with iron-				10	{	Blue bind, - -	0	1	6
		stone, - - - -	1	1	0	10	{	Ironstone, - -	0	0	2
		COAL, - - - -	0	1	5	11	{	Blue bind, - -	0	1	6
		Blue bind, - - -	3	1	0	11	{	Ironstone, - -	0	0	2
		Blackbat and black bind,	0	2	3	12	{	Blue bind, - -	0	1	6
		Stony bind, - - -	2	2	6	12	{	Ironstone, - -	0	0	2
		Blue bind in two beds,	6	1	0	13	{	Blue bind, - -	0	1	6
		Black bat, - - -	0	2	0	13	{	Ironstone, - -	0	0	2
		Blue bind, - - -	3	0	0	14	{	Blue bind, - -	0	1	6
3	{	Ironstone, - - -	0	0	1	14	{	Ironstone, - -	0	0	2
		Blue bind, - - -	0	1	6	14	{	Blue bind, - -	1	2	9
4	{	Ironstone, - - -	0	0	1	15	{	Ironstone, - -	0	0	2½
		Blue bind, - - -	0	1	6	15	{	Black bind, - -	1	1	6