

sediment. What was exactly the nature of these is a problem of some delicacy, which may be better discussed hereafter: in the mean time, the following laws have been established with respect to it. First, it is never so perfectly exhibited as in the ancient argillaceous strata; is most conspicuous among those of finest grain and most uniform nature; disappears in very coarse rocks; ranges in almost exact parallels over many square miles of country; preserves these parallels even across contorted stratification (as Plate IV. fig. 17. 'Guide to Geology,' edit. 3.); and mostly coincides in horizontal direction with the great axes of elevation and depression of strata in the region observed. Finally, imperfect cleavage structures are produced in argillaceous rocks of later date near trap dykes (Coley Hill, Newcastle), and near great granitic irruptions (Vale of Chamouni).

Succession of the Strata.—It is only of late years that the real nature of the proof of the stratification of slate rocks has been sufficiently understood, to permit of its application to particular districts for the purpose of constructing a section of the series of the strata. As yet only two districts in Great Britain can be considered as at all completely investigated, viz. the region of the Cumbrian Lakes, and North Wales; but they are, perhaps, the very best for the purpose that are any where known.

Between Skiddaw and Saddleback the base of the clay slate system is found resting on very thin mica schist and gneiss; and declining to the south-east from an axis of elevation which ranges N. E. and S. W. The dip, judged of by appearance on Derwent Water, in Borrowdale and Grasmere, appears to be considerable, yet not very steep: probably not exceeding, on an average of many miles, 10° .

