

and Flintshire; or have ascertained the truth in analogous situations, such as the district bordering the coalfields of Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

Perhaps there is a coalfield beneath parts of the Cheshire plain. This may be plausibly argued, from the fact that all the bordering coalfields dip beneath that plain; and the probability of the inference is greatly strengthened by the circumstance (first ascertained by the author of this volume) that the limestone beds which lie in the upper part of the Lancashire coal tract are identical with those previously described by Mr. Murchison from the coalfield of Lebotwood, near Shrewsbury. This limestone is of a peculiar quality, yields peculiar fossils, and lies in connection with coalbeds yielding peculiar plants, at both these distant points; circumstances which go far to prove, not perhaps the entire continuity of the rock from point to point, but its contemporaneous deposition in one and the same coal basin. It is, therefore, probable that that coal basin is really continuous under parts of the Cheshire plain of red sandstone. Whether it will be worth while to sink for this coal is not a question for geology to answer; but if the attempt is to be made, geological investigation alone can indicate the proper situation for the trial.

It appears unnecessary to extend these proofs of the value of geological principles to the agricultural and mercantile interests of a nation. One of the most obviously useful applications of science is in the colonies sent forth by a commercial people; and perhaps no more important service could be rendered to Australia or Canada, than by accurate geological surveys, such as are now proceeding steadily in several of the United States of America.

This is, however, not the place to advocate plans of this nature; nor can it be expected that recommendations for colonial advantage will be much regarded in times when even the laborious surveys of the geology of England have been, till lately, left entirely to the generous self-devotion of individuals. It cannot be