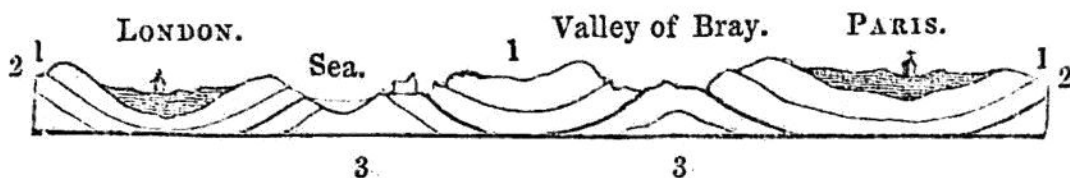


which accompanied Mr. Webster's first announcement of the characters of the British tertiary formations; and this section, by Mr. Lyell (Tab. 34), from Hertfordshire across the British Channel, to Sens in France, explains the position of the London and Paris basins, and the underlying secondary formations.



TAB. 34.—SECTION FROM HERTS, TO SENS, IN FRANCE.

(From Lyell's *Elements of Geology*.)

1. Chalk. 2. Green sand. 3. Wealden.

The shaded sites of London and Paris indicate the tertiary deposits.

17. THE PARIS BASIN.—The Paris basin is from east to west about 100 miles in extent, and 180 from north-east to south-west; the total thickness of the beds, or, to use other terms, the depths passed through to reach the chalk, varying from one to several hundred feet.

The strata, commencing with the lowermost, or most ancient, present the following characters:—

1. *The lowermost.* Chalk flints, broken, and partially rolled, sometimes conglomerated into ferruginous breccia. A layer of this kind is very common on the South Downs, immediately under the turf.

2. *Plastic clay, and sand.* Clay and sand, with fresh-water shells, drifted wood, lignite, leaves, and