

the sands of the plastic clay (Tab. 35, 2, *c, c,*) furnish good soft-water; and the wells that extend to the chalk (Tab. 35, 3, *a, b, b,*) afford an abundant supply, which often rises to the surface in a perennial fountain, for the chalk rests on an impervious bed of marl and clay. Of the practical utility of geological knowledge, even in the common operation of sinking a well, I once had a striking proof. A gentleman residing in Sussex, on the borders of the Forest Ridge, who had seen with admiration the perpetual springs in the environs of the metropolis, determined to form one in his grounds at — Park. Accordingly, a person conversant with the construction of the Artesian wells around London was employed, and the necessary apparatus obtained: but the engineer, being wholly ignorant of the nature of the strata, carried his operations to a great depth, through the beds of the wealden sand of which the district is composed, and, of course, without success, as the least geological knowledge of the strata of the country would have foretold. The undertaking, after considerable labour and expense, was abandoned.

23. THE HAMPSHIRE, OR ISLE OF WIGHT BASIN. —The London basin presents but little analogy to the alternate marine and freshwater deposits of that of Paris; but in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, there is an extensive suite of tertiary strata, composed of clays, sands, and limestones, containing freshwater, with intercalations of marine remains.