

the ligneous structure is beautifully preserved, and veined with pyrites—other portions resemble jet. The strand at low water is seen to be formed of these fossils; and upon removing the sea-weeds which grow on the shore, the petrified trees occur imbedded in masses of clay, which have become indurated, and are now in the state of an argillaceous rock: the stems are from one to two feet in diameter, and eight or ten feet long. The knotty bark and ligneous fibre are very distinct.\* Bones of the iguanodon and other gigantic reptiles are frequently found on the shore at Sandover-bay and Brook-point, being washed out of the beds of the wealden, which there form part of the basin of the British Channel.

40. ISLE OF PURBECK.—The wealden beds are next seen in the Isle of Purbeck, which lies on the Dorsetshire coast, and is of an irregular oval form, being twelve miles in length, and seven in breadth. On the eastern promontory, vertical strata of chalk occur, and beds of clay, sandstone, and limestone lie under the displaced chalk; towards the southern extremity of the island, the Portland limestone appears.†

Purbeck has long been celebrated for its quarries, which have been worked from time immemorial, and particularly during the middle ages, the

\* From Mr. Webster's interesting account of the Geology of the Isle of Wight.

† Conybeare and Phillips.