

other reptiles of the lias, abound. This formation contains a few metallic veins, and some of the foreign divisions are rich in iron ore.

19. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE SALIFEROUS STRATA.*—The geographical position and relation of the new red sandstone in England is very irregular. From the river Tees on the Yorkshire coast, the line of its emergence from beneath the lias forms its eastern boundary, and it runs nearly parallel with the western branch of that formation, to the Dorsetshire and Devonshire coasts, near Lyme, Sidmouth, and Torbay. But the district of which it forms the sub-soil is exceedingly variable in breadth, from the extension of its western limits, as may be seen by any large geological map of England. This arises from the saliferous strata being the last of the nearly horizontal, conformable beds of the eastern and southern counties; the underlying strata being thrown up at various and often considerable angles, and into lofty groups and chains of mountains, which appear like so many islands amidst the great plain of the red marl. From Yorkshire to Nottingham it constitutes a tract of a somewhat uniform breadth of twelve miles. In many parts of Nottinghamshire gypsum occurs in these deposits; and a quartzose gravel, consolidated into a breccia, covers a considerable area, and forms the Castle hill of Nottingham. Passing on to Derby and Leicester, the red marl

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