The usual characters of a coal-field, as a series of strata of this kind is termed, are shown in the section of the South Gloucestershire coal basin (Pl. IX. fig. iv.).* Here we perceive that the old red sandstone, the lowermost group, has been elevated into a position almost vertical, and a layer of mountain limestone lies immediately upon it, and partakes of the same inclination. This is succeeded by a conformable bed of millstone-grit, which is followed by alternations of coal and grit. The unconformable position of the lias and inferior oolite is here shown (see page 462). The mountain limestone and millstone grit are seen on the opposite flank (*on the left*) of the elevated ridge of old red sandstone. It will be instructive to enumerate the deposits exhibited in this section, in their chronological order; that is, in their relative position if they were piled upon each other, and had suffered no displacement: commencing with the lowermost or most ancient.

Pl. IX. fig. iv.—Old red sandstone of the Mendip Hills.

1. Mountain limestone.
2. Millstone grit.

Alternations of coal and shale, with Pennant grit.

3. New red sandstone.
4. Lias.
5. Inferior oolite.
6. Great oolite.
7. Oxford clay, south of Malmsbury.

---

* England and Wales, p. 428.