

SYSTEM.—The *Old red sandstone*, or marl, lies beneath the mountain limestone, and is largely developed in Devonshire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, and in the south-east border of the Grampians. It consists of many varieties and alternations of conglomerates, shales, and sandstones. The sandstones are in various states of induration, and when schistose, are employed for roofing. The conglomerates contain abundance of quartz pebbles. The red colour predominates in the cementing material and in the marls, and is derived, like that of the new red, from the peroxide of iron. The formation of this group of strata has manifestly resulted from the waste and degradation of the ancient slate rocks, of which I shall hereafter speak; the detritus being cemented together, more or less compactly, by red sand or marl, into coarse conglomerates. The slate rocks of Cambria, elevated by convulsive movements, were subjected to degradation, and thus accumulations of pebbles, sand, and mud, were formed in hollows or depressions of the sea. The mountains of Scotland are bordered by enormous depositions of a like character; and those of North and South Wales by extensive beds of red pebbly sandstone.* It would appear from the observations of some eminent geologists, that prior to the formation of the old red sandstone, the Cambrian slaty group of sands, rocks, flags, &c. with porphyritic conglomerates, had been long consolidated; and

* Phillips.