

by a compressing force propagated circularly from a point. This cannot have been the result of crystallization, but must have arisen from the expansion exerted by the included air on the amber and the diamond, when they were in so soft a state as to be susceptible of compression from a very small force; hence Sir David Brewster concludes that, like amber, the diamond has originated from the consolidation of vegetable matter, which has gradually acquired a crystalline form by the slow action of corpuscular forces.* The matrix of the diamonds of Southern India is the sandstone breccia of the clay-slate formation. Capt. Franklin observes that in Bundel Kund, diamonds are imbedded in sandstone, which he supposes to be the same as the new red sandstone, for there are at least 400 feet of that rock below the lowest diamond beds, and strong indications of coal underlying the whole mass.†

25. ANTHRACITE, OR CULM, CANNEL COAL, PLUMBAGO, OR GRAPHITE.—The coal commonly used for domestic purposes in this country is bituminous coal; containing, as before stated, a volatile, inflammable fluid, in a cellular structure. The culm, stone-coal, or *anthracite*,‡ as it is termed, appears to be coal deprived of its bitumen; for it is well known, that when basalt is in contact with coal, the latter is in the state of anthracite; and

* Geological Translations, vol. iii. p. 459.

† London and Edinburgh Journal, October 1835.

‡ Anthracite, derived from the Greek, and signifying carbon.