



Fig. 95. Section from East to West across the Basin of Middle Tennessee.

1. Lower Silurian strata. 2. Devonian strata. 3. Carboniferous strata. 4. Lower Carboniferous limestones. 5. "Conglomerate" (Parma Conglomerate). 6. Coal-measures.

find the brink of this higher wall composed of beetling escarpments of the Coal conglomerate. I mount one of the overhanging cliffs at Bon Air—an old but now ruined watering-place and summer resort—and look down hundreds of feet upon the green tree-tops, from whose sunny summits ascends the chorus of a myriad warblers. Far away to the west stretches the landscape over which I have traveled, and its farther verge blends with the azure which overarches all. Far toward the north and south spreads out the basin of Tennessee; and over all hangs the purple haze with which Nature half conceals, and thereby heightens her charms. Southward rise sheer from the plain some isolated knobs and ridges, which mark the commencement of the region whose general structure embraces Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and similar precipitous elevations along the southern border of the state.

From the dizzy brink on which I stand stretches eastward a cool and salubrious table-land, known as the Cumberland Table-land, marked by a soil, and forest-growth, and climate as distinct from those of the basin below as Wisconsin from the