

of them from 3 to 6 feet thick, with beds of underclay, the whole being interstratified with shales and sandstones. The total thickness of these Coal-measures is about 1,000 feet. The adjoining coal-fields of Le Botwood and Shrewsbury are comparatively of minor importance. The North Wales coal-field in all essential geological points resembles that of South Wales, and lies on the Carboniferous Limestone, which is from 800 to 1,000 feet thick. South of Wrexham the whole dips east under the Permian rocks, and further north under the New Red Sandstone. The Denbighshire part contains at least 17 beds of coal, most of which are worked, and the Flintshire part at least 12 beds. A small fragment of the same strata occurs in the central part of Anglesey. It is underlaid by the Carboniferous Limestone, and on the south-east is faulted against the Cambrian rocks. Permian strata overlie it, but the smaller faults and a greenstone dyke which affect the coal do not pass through the Permian beds, which lie unconformably over all.

In the centre of England the basement beds of the South Staffordshire coal-field rest directly on the Wenlock Limestone of the Upper Silurian series. This field, in the northern part, contains 14 beds of coal. Getting closer to each other by degrees in the south, several of these coalesce to form the thick coal, in places 40 feet in thickness, with two thin partings. The rocks are pierced by basalts and a white felspathic-looking trap, which has charred the coals at the points of junction, and is undoubtedly connected with the great basaltic mass, called the Rowley Rag, that overlies the Coal-measures.

The New Red Sandstone on the east is faulted against the Warwickshire coal-field, and generally over-