

CHAPTER XII.

LIASSIC AND OOLITIC, OR JURASSIC STRATA.

IN the previous chapter, I stated that the continental area in which lay the lakes of the epoch of the New Red Marl, underwent partial submersion, during which our passage beds, called the Rhætic or *Avicula contorta* strata, were deposited. This sinking of the land going on by degrees, resulted in the formation of groups of islands, round which, first the LIAS, and afterwards the OOLITIC SERIES were deposited, the whole, on the Continent of Europe, and now often in Britain, being grouped under the name of *Jurassic* formations.

The general stratigraphical relations of the larger masses of the Liassic and Oolitic series, in the southern half of England, will be easily understood by reference to fig. 5, p. 25.

The high ground now called Wales and Herefordshire, undoubtedly formed part of one of these islands; Dartmoor and other palæozoic elevations in Devon and Cornwall formed others; probably the hilly regions of Derbyshire another; and, certainly, the Cumbrian mountains a fourth; while there can be no doubt that parts of the south of Scotland, and the greater heights of the Highlands, also stood as islands washed by the Liassic sea.

It is not, however, to be supposed that the actual