

of a great continent, and that, during the formation of the Lower Greensand, this land suffered partial submergence, but by no means to such an extent that the Oolitic strata, which then extended far to the west, round Wales, were entirely sunk beneath the sea in which our Lower Greensand was deposited.

As a whole, the Lower Greensand, being a coarse and sandy formation, was deposited in shallow water, and great part of it was in the long run tranquilly heaved out of the sea, to undergo terrestrial waste and denudation before the deposition of the Gault began.

The deposition of the Gault in our area, first took place on a surface of country that was being gradually submerged, and part of the sediment was laid on the Lower Greensand, and part on various members of the Oolitic strata, from which the Lower Greensand had been removed by denudation. This Gault Clay is, however, so difficult to separate from the Upper Greensand in the eastern part of England, and the Upper Greensand is so difficult to separate by any clear line from the Chalk, that it now becomes necessary to consider the question of the mode of deposition of all three, if, indeed, except as local developments of different sedimentary character, they ought not to be considered, on a broad scale, as only one formation. Right or wrong, the origin of this idea was first declared by Mr. Godwin-Austen, whose large grasp of questions in physical geology, (to be found only in scattered memoirs, and unfortunately often only spoken in accidental remarks,) is by no means so well known as it would have been, had he printed all his stores of geological knowledge in consecutive form. All that I know of this subject with respect to these Cretaceous formations, is in the first