

of the Carboniferous Limestone, fine examples of which may be seen in the country near Chatsworth on the east, and between Chapel-le-Frith, Buxton, and Hartington, and the neighbourhood of Leek, on the west. Let anyone get to the highest limestone hills in the midst of the area, and look west to Ax Edge beyond Buxton, and east towards Rowseley or Bakewell, and he will see these escarpments, the nearest on either side, being generally separated from the limestone hills by a deep valley excavated in the soft Yoredale shales. This special piece of geological anatomy is, indeed, characteristic of the whole of the region, the limestone hills being almost entirely surrounded by a valley, or valleys, the chief watershed of which is near Castleton on the north, beyond which, on the east, the Derwent flows, well wooded, and still often bordered by oaks,¹ while on the west the classic Dove runs down a similar valley, till it enters that gorge of tall limestone cliffs, which itself has cut some miles above Ashbourne. Narrow dry dales are common in the Carboniferous Limestone region, and probably some of these are the relics of old underground watercourses, the roofs of which have fallen in.

In the northern part of Derbyshire, near Hathersage and the High Peak, the Millstone grit lies in broad plateaux, often from 1,000 to 1,200 feet in height. Great part of the country, east towards Derwent Dale and north of the High Peak, is called the Woodlands. In places the steep hill-sides are still dotted with little woods and single trees of birch, ash, mountain ash, oak, and elder, the relics of the forest that once gave this high country its name.

¹ Derwyn is Welsh for an oak, whence probably the original name of the river.