

spread far across the plains which the abrupt Chalk escarpments now overlook. These have been and are still being wasted back, for they are comparatively easily destroyed, but the strong 'grey wethers' remain, and as the rocks on which they once lay were slowly wasted away and disappeared, these masses of tough and intractable silicious stone gradually subsided to their present places.

Besides the name of 'grey wethers,' they are also known as Sarsen stones, and Druid stones, and all the standing masses of Avebury and Stonehenge, popularly supposed to be Druidical temples, have been left, by denudation, not far from the spots where they have since been erected into such grand old monuments by an ancient race.<sup>1</sup>

I might add many details respecting the origin of the scenery of other portions of England, such as the relation of the secondary rocks to the older rocks of Devon, the structure of the Malvern Hills, a true miniature mountain range, and of the Mendip Hills, or of the beautiful Vale of Clwyd, in North Wales, consisting of a bay of soft New Red Sandstone, bounded by Silurian mountains and old limestone cliffs, and of the still larger Vale of Eden, in the North, where the mountains of Cumberland look down on an undulating ground formed of Permian and partly of New Red strata (fig. 104, p. 521). But some of these regions will be dealt with when I discuss the subject of the British rivers, and in the meanwhile it would not

<sup>1</sup> The smaller stones at Stonehenge have been brought from a distance. They are mostly of igneous origin, and are believed by Mr. Fergusson to have been votive offerings. See 'Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain; the Geology of parts of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire,' sheet 34, 1858, pp. 41-44. Also a memoir by Professor Maskelyne.