

One highly beneficial result of the basin-shaped disposition of the Carboniferous strata has been, to bring them all to the surface around the circumference of each Basin, and to render them accessible, by sinking mines in almost every part of their respective areas; (See Pl. 65. Figs. 1, 2, 3.). An uninterrupted inclination in one direction only, would have soon plunged the lower strata to a depth inaccessible to man.

The Basin of London, (Pl. 67.) affords an example of a similar disposition of the Tertiary strata reposing on the Chalk. The Basins of Paris, Vienna, and of Bohemia, afford other examples of the same kind. (See Pl. 1. Figs. 24—28.)

The Secondary and Transition strata of the central and North Western districts of England, are marginal portions of the great geological Basin of Northern Europe; and their continuations are found in the plains, and on the flanks of mountain regions on the Continent.*

These general dispositions of all strata in the

* The section (Pl. 66. Fig. 1.) shews the manner in which the Strata of the Transition Series are continued downwards between the Coal formation and the older members of the Grauwacke formation, through a series of deposits, to which Mr. Murchison has recently assigned the name of the "*Silurian system.*" This Silurian system is represented by No. 11, in our Section, Fig. 1. The recent labours of Mr. Murchison in the border counties of England and Wales have ably filled up what has hitherto been a blank page, in the history of this portion of the vast and important Systems of Rocks, included under the Transition series; and