

position, the thin strata of Coal are worked with greater facility than if they had been horizontal; but as this inclination has a tendency to plunge their lower extremities to a depth that would be inaccessible, a series of Faults, or Traps, is interposed, by which the component portions of the same formation are arranged in a series of successive tables, or stages, rising one behind another, and elevated continually upwards towards the surface, from their lowest points of depression. (See Pl. 65. Fig. 3. and Pl. 66. Fig. 2.) A similar effect is often produced by *Undulations* or contortions of the strata, which give the united advantage of inclined position and of keeping them near the surface. The *Basin-shaped* structure which so frequently occurs in coal fields, has a tendency to produce the same beneficial consequences. (See Pl. 65. Figs. 1. 2. 3.)

But a still more important benefit results from the occurrence of *Faults* or *Fractures*,* without which the contents of many deep and rich mines

* "Faults," says Mr. Conybeare, "consist of fissures traversing the strata, extending often for several miles, and penetrating to a depth, in very few instances ascertained; they are accompanied by a subsidence of the strata on one side of their line, or (which amounts to the same thing) an elevation of them on the other; so that it appears, that the same force which has rent the rocks thus asunder, has caused one side of the fractured mass to rise, or the other to sink.—The fissures are usually filled by clay." *Geology of England and Wales*, Part I. 348.