

versely, and its once continuous portions are thrown to a considerable distance from each other. This line of fracture is usually marked by a wall of clay, formed probably by the abrasion of the rocks whose adjacent portions have been thus dislocated. Such faults are known in the mines of Cornwall by the term *flucan*, and they often produce a similar advantage to those that traverse the Coal measures, in guarding the miner from inundation, by a series of natural dams traversing the rocks in various directions, and intercepting all communication between that mass in which he is conducting his operations, and the adjacent masses on the other side of the *flucan* or dam.\*

It may be added also, that the Faults in a Coal field, by interrupting the continuity of the beds of coal, and causing their truncated edges to abut against those of unflammable strata of shale or

\* "My object is rather to suggest whether the arrangement of veins, &c. does not argue design and a probable connection with other phenomena of our Globe.

"Metalliferous veins, and those of quartz, &c. appear to be channels for the circulation of the subterraneous water and vapour; and the innumerable clay veins, or "flucan courses" (as they are termed in Cornwall), which intersect them, and are often found contained in them, being generally impervious to water, prevent their draining the surface of the higher grounds as they otherwise would, and also facilitate the working of mines to a much greater depth than would be practicable without them." *R. W. Fox on the Mines of Cornwall, Phil. Trans.* 1830, p. 404.