

resulting from these Interruptions of the continuity of the strata are pointed out in pp. 543, 544.

A large portion of the surface of these strata near Newcastle is covered with a thick bed of diluvial Clay interspersed with Pebbles, in the manner represented at the top of this Section. The effect of this Clay must be to exclude much rain-water that would have percolated downwards into the Coal mines, had strata of porous Sandstone formed the actual surface.

PLATE 67. V. I. p. 559.

Fig. 1. represents the case of a valley of Denudation in stratified rocks, terminated abruptly by a cliff on

copies of his most important plans and sections, accompanied by written documents, of the under ground workings in the Collieries near that town, in which all those spaces are carefully noted, from whence the Coal has been extracted. Every practical Miner is too well acquainted with the danger of approaching ancient workings in consequence of the accumulation of water in those parts from which Coal has been removed. The sudden irruption of this water into a mine adjacent to such reservoirs is occasionally attended with most calamitous and fatal results. See History of Fossil Fuel, the Collieries and Coal Trade, 1835. P. 249 et seq.

The dictates of humanity which prompt us to aid in the preservation of human life, no less than the economical view of rendering available at a future time the residuary portions of our beds of Coal, which will not now repay the cost of extracting them, should induce all proprietors and other persons connected with Coal Mines, and especially Engineers and Coal Viewers, to leave to their successors a legacy, which will to them be precious, by preserving minute and exact records of the state of the coal in their respective districts. It can, however, scarcely be expected, that such measures will be generally and systematically adopted throughout the many Coal fields of this country, unless the subject be legislatively taken up by those official persons, whom it behoves, as guardians of the future welfare of the nation, to institute due measures, whilst the opportunities exist, for preventing that loss of life and property, which a little attention bestowed in season, will preserve to posterity.