

CORNBRASH.

SOIL.—*Colour*, reddish brown, more remarkable on the outcrop of the upper, than of the lower part of the rock.

Consistence, rather tenacious when wet ; but like other Stonebrash soils on the rubbly subsoil of a Limestone rock, it is kept loose enough for cultivation by the small rubble stones thickly strewed on the surface of its ploughed fields, but which disappear when laid down to pasture. In some fields these are mostly organized fossils.

SUBSOIL, Rubble or roadstones, rather flat, and so little intermixed with soil or earth, as to be used on the roads as they are shovelled up from the quarries.

STRATUM, the same. The bluer, thicker, and larger stones in deep quarries are rarely more than six inches thick in the beds : outsides brown and earthy, darker and harder within. The rock generally grey or blue under its incumbent stratum of clay.

WATER, in the winter too commonly fills every crevice in the stratum of rock, the subsoil and soil ; dry in the summer.

EXCAVATIONS, hold water in winter, —not deep, —made for the use of the roads, to the extent of some acres, and if well levelled, resoiled, and drained, taking out the stone in some instances, rather improves than injures the land.

In a distinct arrangement of British Geology into assemblages of Strata, which collectively form distinguishing features of the Earth's surface, and each class described by an appropriate name, the Stratum under consideration must form the boundary of one of those important divisions. It is the decided limit of the *Clay Vale District*, and the commencement of the stony surface, which gradually rises to the Stonebrash Hills. It rarely ascends to the highest of those hills, but occurs more generally on the confines of the low ground formed by the incumbent Stratum of clay. As the hills of this stratum are not high, so its vallies are not deep : in some parts they are merely slight undulations of surface, which correspond to similar undulations in the Stratum, and crossing its general course, produce many small springs and rivulets, frequently dry in the summer.

Like some other Limestones, the Cornbrash forms small insular knolls, or caps of hills, on the sloping side of the great series of Stonebrash Hills, of which it forms a part. Such detached parts occur near Charterhouse Hinton, south of Bath. That of Addington, Woodford, and Wold Farm, north of the river Nen, in Northamptonshire, appears to be so.

It is remarkable for regularly sloping planes on its surface, as near Witney, Campsfield near Woodstock, and near Bicester in Oxfordshire, and also near Peterborough. It is chiefly in arable, superior in quality to much of the similar soils of the Stonebrash Hills, and when otherwise appropriated to pasture, produces grass of a good quality.

The Cornbrash, though altogether but a thin rock, has not its organized fossils equally diffused, or promiscuously distributed. The upper beds of stone which compose the rock,