

convey across it to the channel, several rivers rising in the interior ridges of the Weald, viz. the Arun, the Adar, the Ouse, and the Cuckmere. Its highest point is Butser hill in Hampshire, which is 917 feet above the level of the sea.

Nearly connected with this chain is a low and insulated ridge of chalk called Portsdown hill, lying entirely within the basin of the Isle of Wight, and protruding as it were through the superstrata which occupy that basin, and on all sides surround it. Its situation is near the commencement of the chain we have just described, and it seems to be the result of a slight undulation in the strata. It lies on the north of Portsmouth, and extends in length about ten miles east and west between Havant and Fareham, while its breadth scarcely exceeds a mile.

Lastly, from the south of the great central mass near Salisbury, a chain is detached (answering to the lower part of the stem of our k); which, proceeding through Dorsetshire, bounds the Isle of Wight basin on the north-west. Its escarpment first runs west-south-west to Shaftesbury (the vale of Tisbury lying in the angle between itself and the central hills); thence it trends south towards Blandford (where the valley of the Stour breaks through the chain), but about two miles north of that town turns again westward, in which direction it extends (being however broken through by the valley of the Frome), for about 20 miles, to the north of Beaminster, forming Horn hill, which together with the hill on its north, may be said to form its extreme point of connexion in the west of England. On the west of these hills however there are some outlying masses, the probable consequences of denudation, lying upon and surrounded by the beds of the green sand. One of these masses is immediately on the south of Crewkerne, and the road from that place to Chard passes for five or six miles over the summit of another. Chard itself is situated on the edge of another outlying mass, about one mile wide and five miles long from east to west. Two or three other small patches occur on the south-west, and between Chard and Sidmouth; and on the east of the latter place are three outliers of more considerable dimension, and very near to the coast. Returning to Horn hill, we thence trace the escarpment to within a mile of the coast near Abbotsbury. The chain however does not yet actually reach the sea-shore; for suddenly turning round to the east,* so as to form an acute angle with its former course, it proceeds in that direc-

* To make our letter k represent this, we must suppose the extremity of the lower part of its stem to be bent suddenly inwards, thus

