

and at the distance of several miles are lost beneath the superincumbent strata. (P.)

It also constitutes a remarkable character in the chalk ranges (of which numerous examples have been mentioned in describing its range and extent) to be frequently broken through by transverse vallies, giving vent to rivers often rising in districts of much less elevation beneath their escarpment, and among the subjacent strata. The low degree of consolidation possessed by this rock, has suffered it to be more easily acted on by the causes (whatever may have been their nature) which have excavated the vallies, and thus given rise to the above configuration of its surface. The phænomena of these transverse vallies, and the nature of their connexion with the longitudinal vallies at the foot of the chain, is such as to overthrow completely the hypothesis which attributes the formation of vallies to the gradual but incessant action of the rivers now flowing through them; this point will be further examined in the chapter dedicated to this subject in the sixth book. (C.)

The highest summit of the range in Yorkshire is Wilton Beacon, which is 809 feet above the level of the sea; and there are several hills in the range traversing the more southern counties which are nearly equal, and even superior to Wilton Beacon, as well as several in the long ranges, traversing Hampshire, Kent, and Surrey in an easterly direction and forming the boundaries of the chalk basins of London and the Isle of Wight already described. The most elevated point of the whole is that of Inkpen beacon in Wiltshire, which is 1011 feet above the level of the sea.\* (P.)

(f) *Thickness, &c.* The aggregate thickness of the upper and lower chalk is taken by the Rev. Mr. Buckland in his order of superposition, &c. as being 580 feet, and the two beds may be assumed without much error, as being of about equal thickness, but they may be supposed to differ considerably in different places.

Near Dover, the chalk with numerous flints and that with few flints, are together 480 feet thick, while that without

\* The extremity of the Chilterns and of the North and South Downs is every where celebrated for the extent of their prospects. The boldness of the escarpment and the whiteness of the substance have given the idea of ornamenting the country in various parts by cutting away the turf. The white horse above Uffington in Berkshire, occupies about an acre of ground, and may be seen at some points of view at the distance of twelve miles. There is another land-mark of the same kind at Chervil near Calne in Wiltshire, and a third in the neighbourhood of Thetford. On the chalk hill that faces Weymouth is a representation of his late Majesty on horseback. Near Cerne is a figure of a giant holding a club in one hand and extending the other; this colossal figure is 180 feet in height. (G. Notes.)