

From the mouth of the river Cauche, near Etaples, past those of the rivers Authie and Somme, as far as Treport, the shore is formed all the way by a line of sandy dunes, and the land is low. South of the Cauche, and as far as the Authie, a series of argillaceous and sandy superstrata may be seen covering the chalk: these seem to indicate this tract as the eastern termination of the Isle of Wight basin.

At Treport, about twelve miles eastward from Dieppe, the chalky cliffs again rise, and here commences their principal range on the French coast; for they extend hence about sixty miles to Cape la Heve near the mouth of the Seine, presenting an unbroken barrier of a dazzling white, excepting where they dip into some creek or cove, or open to afford a passage to some river or streamlet. The cliffs of Dieppe, Cape L'Aailly, St. Valery en Caux, Fecamp, and Cape d'Antifer or de Caux, occur in this interval. Near the latter, are some remarkable insulated pyramids of chalk resembling in form and circumstances the Needles of the Isle of Wight, and denominated from the same analogy *les Aiguilles*. This long precipitous range may be regarded as the continuation of the chalky hills in the centre and south of the Isle of Wight, which lie directly over against it, following the line of bearing of the strata from north-west to south-east.

The cliffs are often of stupendous height, exceeding, it is said, in this respect, those of England, and sometimes attaining an elevation of nearly 700 feet, but this is probably exaggerated; Cuvier assigns between 300 and 400 only: their most lofty and striking point is near Fecamp. Their stratification is nearly horizontal, and they are almost entirely formed of the upper, or flint-bearing portion of the formation. In some points they are crowned by patches of the superior strata; this is the case near the light-house of St. Margaret's on the west of Dieppe, where a section of the plastic clay series is afforded, exactly corresponding to that of Newhaven in Sussex (*G. T.* vol. iv.); the former being perhaps an outlier on the south-west, as the latter is on the north-east of the Isle of Wight basin.\*

Cape la Heve, where the chalk cliffs terminate, is two miles and a half east of Havre. The chalk without flints, and green sand, may be observed in this vicinity. Hence the hills run south, and their section against the Seine produces a cliff at Orcher three leagues above Havre; the intermediate tongue of land is low and consists of lias, containing crocodiles bones, &c.

\* From the notices of fossils in different French writers, it seems probable that the upper strata also occur above the cliffs near Fecamp, and that the beds under the chalk are to be seen near the Cape de Caux.