

Weymouth denudation, where its course will be sufficiently indicated by referring back to the description of that pursued by the coral rag in that district, since it occurs interposed between the central nucleus of the subjacent oolites and the collateral chains of that rock.

(e) *Height, &c.* This stratum must be considered as being for the most part extremely low, as is the case throughout the considerable tract occupied by it in Lincolnshire, where it scarcely exceeds the height of the fens which penetrate it, and which separate it from the point of its reappearance on the surface in Huntingdonshire; whence to Bedford, this stratum forms the vale of the Ouse. On the west and south-west of Bedford, and on the east of Buckingham, occur some exceptions to the general flatness of the country formed by this stratum: but the eminences are not considerable. Thence to Oxford it is low and flat, and on the south-west of that place it forms the vale of the Isis for several miles. Gentle eminences again appear near Malmsbury and occasionally on the south of it, as near Trowbridge and on the north and west of the vale of Blackmoor. (G. Map.)

(f) *Thickness.* The thickness of this formation must be very great, probably exceeding 500 feet. At Boston, as has been already stated, it has been penetrated to the depth of 478 feet; from comparing its breadth taken horizontally, and its inclination, it may be estimated at about 700 feet in the midland counties, and cannot be much less in the south-western.

(g) *Inclination.* It appears to be very nearly conformable to the formations before described, although a slight difference in this respect, between the different members of the series, must be supposed, in order to account for the occasional appearances of beds in some places which are wanting in others, and for the upper edge of this formation being thus at one time in contact with the iron sand, at another with the Aylesbury lime, and at a third with the coral rag. A very slight deviation however is sufficient to account for this, and no more probably takes place. When indeed it is said that beds are conformable to each other, the circumstances under which they appear to have been deposited would scarcely warrant us in expecting to find an absolute and mathematical parallelism, but only an approximation to it.

The general dip of this formation appears to be to the east and south-east under an angle scarcely if at all exceeding 1°, except in the elevated tract north of Weymouth, where the direction and dip change, and the angle is often as high as 30°.

(h) *Agricultural character.* The vale which extends from Melbury to Shaftesbury in Dorsetshire is famous as a butter