

which is probably also the case with the more extensive insulated mass lying still further north between Evesham and Tewkesbury, and constituting the Breedon hills (marked *k* in Mr. Greenough's Map.)*

From Cheltenham the escarpment of the hills and inferior junction of the great oolite passes about five miles east of Gloucester (having two outlyers of inferior oolite, Churchill and Robinswood hill, on the north-east and south-east of that city), and pursuing its course to the south, is deeply indented by the vale of Stroud; beyond which it projects in a bold cape hanging over Wotton under Edge, and then continues in a nearly straight line almost due south, ranging immediately west of the road from Gloucester to Bath, to within four miles of the latter city, around which all the streamlets flowing into the Avon run through vallies of denudation deeply furrowing the high platform of the oolitic hills: † thus the brook flowing

* In Drayton's fanciful poem, the *Polyolbion*, are some very characteristic lines descriptive of Breedon hill; they are put into the mouth of one of his singular local personifications, the vale of Evesham.

“ Yet more, what lofty hills to humble vallies owe,
And what high grace they have which near to us are plac'd,
In Breedon may be seen, being amorously embrac'd
In cincture of my arms. Who though he do not vaunt
His head like those who look as they would heaven supplant,
Yet let them wisely note in what excessive pride
He in my bosom sits, while him on every side
With my delicious sweets and delicates I trim;
And when great Malvern looks most terrible and grim,
He with a pleasant brow continually doth smile.”

† The position of all the constituent beds in each of the hills hanging over these denuded vallies round Bath, may be at once determined from the marked features of their outline and profile, by a spectator from a distant view, provided he be acquainted with the general structure of the range. The great oolite forms a flat table land on their summits, ending with an abrupt edge; this is succeeded by a gentle slope which marks the subjacent fullers' earth, a greener verdure and rushy grounds arising from the discharge of the oolitic springs thrown out by these clayey beds are here seen: beneath is the lower terrace of the inferior oolite, which breaks down with a steep and almost precipitous escarpment to the vale.

In many instances (as at the north-east of Lansdown near the monument) large broken masses of the great oolite, having been precipitated from its escarpment, are spread over the slope of the fullers' earth, presenting a scene of rocky ruin resembling the undercliff in the Isle of Wight. This may be seen particularly at Warley rocks above Bathford. Similar subsided masses of the inferior oolite are also frequently piled against the foot of its escarpment.

Mr. Townsend gives a particular account of these dislocations; but since they affect the inferior oolite as well as the beds of which we are now treating, we shall postpone our extracts from it to the end of the article on stratification and inclination in the section assigned to the inferior oolite.