

sea; the surrounding and adjacent summits of Studbury, Staverton, Rydon, Badby, and those a little farther south at Cherwelton, Hellidon, and Byfield, nearly rival Arbury in height: they have the general appearance of a series of rounded conical knolls scattered confusedly over a platform of lower elevation, and constitute by far the most varied and picturesque scenery in this part of the country: they are entirely composed of the ferruginous sands, which also crown the insulated and detached (or outlying) hills of Shuckborough and Napton, rising from the lias plains at the foot of the escarpment on the west:† about four miles south of these is another similar outlier on which stands the village of Boddington. This group of eminences round Arbury, inconsiderable as is their absolute height, are yet the most elevated ground in this part of the island, and shed their waters to three different quarters of its circumference, a distinction in which they have few rivals; for, as Moreton observes, “from Hellidon downs there springs forth the Leame (which flows westwards by Leamington into the Warwickshire Avon, and thus is finally emptied through the Severn into the Bristol Channel); from Studbury hill, or very near it, the Nyne or Nen (which flows eastward till it disembogues in the æstuary of the Wash on the German Ocean); and lastly, from the hills on the north-west of Cherwelton,‡ the Cherwell (which flows south into the Thames); and all these springs are within an equilateral triangle whose sides do not exceed about a mile in length. From Studbury hill alone, indeed, and the grounds at the foot of it, the rain water that falls there runs down to three different points; a part of it westward to the Leame; another part eastward to the Nen; and the rest southward to the Cherwell.”

These scattered summits, evidently the fragments of strata which have been once continuous, demonstrate to what an extent the action of the denuding causes has taken place in this quarter. The same causes appear to have formed that deep and broad valley indenting the course of this chain like a deep bay, through which the Cherwell flows to the south (the western branch of that river rising within it, and the eastern soon entering it): the Oxford canal avails itself of the level tract of the same valley, which completely traverses and bisects the course of the Stonebrash hills; this valley is excavated in the lias clays as far as Banbury and a little to the south of that

† These are erroneously coloured as if they were entirely composed of lias in Mr. Greenough's map.

‡ Near Cherwelton there is a small accumulation of chalk flint gravel, and other alluvial debris in the bottom among the hills.