

metrical Survey, for which it furnished one of the stations, at 836 feet above the sea. The adjacent country affords the finest, or indeed (with the exception of some parts of the vale of Oxford) the only good scenery in Oxfordshire. These hills are entirely formed of the ferruginous sands: the subjacent marly sandstones occupy the escarpment of the general platform.

Near the foot of the Epwell hills, is one of the subsided portions of oolite which has been described in the preceding section.

On the west towards Brailes (stretching in a bold range by Compton Winyate), the descent of the escarpment presents many beds of ferruginous sandstones alternating with loamy marles, resting on a thick bed of dark blue clay, beneath which is a lower terrace of the marly sandstones resting on the lias clay. Brailes hill or rather hills consist of two detached and lofty summits rising like islands from the great lias bay of Shipston (or Vale of Red horse) one on the north-west, and the other on the south-west of Brailes;* these agree in composition with the opposite escarpment, but the greater of them (the southern hill) exhibits in one field on its summit a patch of oolite.

South of Brailes, the escarpment ranges by Whichford and Long Compton under the Rolwright hills, which exhibit oolite on their summit. These constitute what may be considered as the southern boundary of the lias bay of Shipston (or vale of Red horse); but the Evenlode, which rises in this quarter, flows southward through a valley which forms a prolongation, or to preserve the metaphor a creek, opening into that bay, and traversing the oolite hills; this continues tolerably broad (more than a mile across) till it approaches Shipston under Whichwood.

The ridge noticed in the preceding section as running on the north-west from Whichwood forest, and being covered with a cap of the great oolite, forms the western boundary of this vale. The strata beneath this oolitic cap, as seen on both sides the ridge, at Idbury on its eastern escarpment, and the denuded valley of Great Rissington on the west, are first, clay throwing out a series of springs, then ferruginous sandstones containing belemnites and terebratulæ (great Rissington stands on these beds) and beneath these clay again, containing large concretions of the marly sandstone of extraordinary induration. The hills proceeding north from Stow in the Wold above More-

* Inadvertently coloured as lias in Mr. Greenough's Map; where they are marked by the letter *u*.