to reach the coal from beds so far above it in the regular series) a section will be hereafter given. No inference however can be drawn from this district in favor of similar trials elsewhere, since two peculiar circumstances here concur; 1st, the manner in which these more recent beds here overlie the coal field, resting unconformably in horizontal planes on the truncated ends of the highly inclined strata belonging to the coal measures; and 2ndly, the thinning out of many of the beds in this direction; in consequence of which the sands of the inferior oolites, and the clay of the lias, are greatly reduced, and have almost vanished in many places, leaving the freestone beds of the inferior oolite almost in contact with the lower stony beds of the lias; the new red sandstone also being greatly diminished in thickness, so that a geological interval, equal in many other districts probably to 2000 feet is here reduced to less than a quarter of that depth.

South of Paulton, in Kilmersdon and Babington parishes, the inferior oolite spreads over the same platforms with the diminished lias, and it becomes somewhat difficult in many places to trace the latter as a distinct formation. In the south of the latter parish, and in Mells, the horizontal planes of the inferior oolite come in contact (in the manner represented in the wood-cut, page 228) with the inclined coal-measures and mountain limestone constituting the eastern portion of the Mendip hills, which expire in this direction by the lowering of their strata; so that they become buried beneath the level of these more recent formations, and are here exhibited only in the bottom and sides of the vallies of denudation. Such is the character of the district lying between Mells on the north, Frome on the west, and the two Cranmores on the south; an uniform and elevated plain of the inferior oolite spreads over its whole surface, furrowed by vallies about 150 or 200 feet deep, which expose the mountain limestone. The character of many of these vallies (particularly of that between Mells and Frome and its lateral branches) is highly romantic; the streamlets that flow through them being skirted by bold and rocky banks overgrown by feathering woods; while the geologist observes, as a feature of peculiar interest in their precipitous escarpment, the actual contact of the horizontal bed of inferior oolite resting on the truncated edges of strata of mountain lime, thrown up in an angle of from 50 to 60 degrees. This line of contact is sometimes perfectly level for a considerable distance (as if the edges of the mountain limestone strata had been rendered smooth by some mechanical force abrading them previously to the deposition of the inferior oolite), but in other instances it is rugged and irregular; some-