

are in their general position strictly conformable to all the other secondary formations which we have as yet described, dipping beneath them towards the south-east under an almost inappreciable angle.

Some instances of those dislocations accompanied by subsidences, which are usually termed faults, may be observed in these strata, especially in that portion of them which overlies the south Gloucester and Somerset coal-field; where, although the greater part of the faults affecting the coal-field appear to have been produced by convulsions which have acted upon it before the deposition of these strata, and therefore do not derange the latter, yet in some cases the contrary takes place. An instance of this may be seen on the edge of Clandown hill, Somersetshire, where it hangs over the village of Paulton; here a fault traversing the subjacent colliery also throws down the inferior oolite 20 fathoms to the north, bringing it to the level of the lias; the hill on the north-west of Bitton (half way between Bath and Bristol on the north bank of the river Avon) exhibits a similar case; the southern point of that hill being formed of the inferior oolite sands, made to abut abruptly against the lias and subjacent new red sandstone of which all the northern part of the hill consists.

Instances of derangement on the slopes of the hills occupied by these strata, from masses which have been undermined either at the period when the vallies were originally excavated, or by the subsequent agency of the springs percolating through them, &c. and have been precipitated over the escarpments, such as have been already mentioned when treating of the great oolite, are much more common than the true cases of faults: we subjoin the particulars of several observed by Mr. Townsend in the neighbourhood of Bath; the two first cases indeed rather relate to the great oolite than to these beds, but we have been induced to keep the whole together from the convenience of presenting a more connected view of the phænomena of this nature which the geological traveller may have an opportunity of examining in that district.

On the northern extremity of Lansdown, near the monument, we meet with, not the mouldering of a scarp, but its dislocation; for here the crop of the great oolite has fallen down on the back of the bastard free-stone; and the intermediate bed of clay, with its fullers' earth, is wanting. At this very time, (March 1803,) Mr. Bush is removing the rubbish, and has laid bare some of the best beds of the oolite, which, instead of dipping gently to the south-east, here fall to the north in a regular succession of fragments, between which are considerable chasms. The bastard free-stone, on which these fragments