

towards the German Ocean, yet it is ascertained by the level of several canals traversing this district, that the line along which the waters thus divide is only between 300 & 400 feet above the level of the sea. A similar separation of water-courses takes place in the Cheshire and Shropshire plain, between the Weaver flowing to the Irish Channel, tributaries of the Severn and tributaries of the Trent; but the elevation of this line is yet less considerable, being only between 200 & 300 feet; the high ground of Ashley heath, situated in this quarter, however, rises to the height of 803 feet: but the general character of the districts occupied by this formation, is to be destitute of any considerable eminences. (C.)

(f) *Thickness.* The thickness of this formation appears to be very variable. In Durham, pits have been sunk in it in the fruitless search for coal, to the depth of 708 feet without penetrating below the beds of this rock; while, on the other hand, at Pucklechurch in Gloucestershire, shafts have been sunk from the lias beds to the coal-measures, and passing entirely through this formation, which was thus found to be only 153 feet in thickness.

The red marle between Darlington and Yarm, which is about 10 miles distant from it a little on the south of east, and therefore near its junction with the magnesian lime, is at least 120 fathoms thick. (G. Map.)

Near Evesham in Worcestershire the red marle was sunk through 600 feet in fruitless search for coal. (G. Notes.)

(g) *Inclination.* The dip of the beds of this formation is generally very trifling, and in a direction conformable to that of the lias, and other superior strata. (C.)

(h) *Agricultural character.* Throughout its range we find some of the richest land in England, consisting of red marle, which is every where most fertile for wheat, barley, beans, peas, and is equally distinguished for the goodness of its cider. (T. 155.)

Wheat produced in Exminster parish in Devonshire, is said to be thinner hulled, and to afford a larger proportion of white flour than any other, and sells higher. Polwhele says that in that district, and around Collumpton and Bradnich, it produces strong crops of corn, but is more profitable when kept in grass for bullocks. The trefoil springs up every where spontaneously. Throughout these districts are hills or downs on which sheep are bred. (G. Notes.)

It is a remark which I have heard from several experienced land-surveyors, that the best tracts of land which they have any where met with in the course of their practice, have been upon this stratum: and I think I shall not be much wide of