

depth without the intervention of any other rock, the strata being divided only by thin partings of clay; but sometimes this series exhibits alternations of various heterogeneous rocks, particularly toadstone, grit, and shale; so that the proportion of the limestone beds in constituting the series of strata here denominated from them, as its characteristic feature, varies; they being sometimes exclusively prevalent, and sometimes forming little more than one-third of the whole series: occasionally also the limestone beds themselves become more thinly laminated.

These limestone beds contain nodules of chert disposed in layers in a manner precisely analogous to those of flint in the chalk strata.

It is a prevailing character of this limestone to be full of caverns and fissures. All the caverns in this island (with some very trifling exceptions presented by the transition limestone of Devonshire, and the new magnesian limestone in Somersetshire,) occur in this rock. Rivers which flow across it are often suddenly engulfed, and pursue to considerable distances a subterranean course; and the hills constituted by it usually exhibit rocky dales and mural precipices. Hence it presents much of the most picturesque and romantic scenery of which England can boast.*

* The following information respecting the caverns and subterranean rivers of the mountain lime has been extracted from the Notes obligingly lent to the Editors by Mr. Greenough.

Caverns are extremely common in the limestone district. The following are amongst the most remarkable:—

In Westmoreland, there is a great cavern in the main limestone, at Dunall, five miles from Dufton.

In Durham, Hetherburn cave, near Stanhope, in the 70 fathom limestone, runs above a mile underground.

In Yorkshire. Giggleswick scar; Kingsdale; Wethercat cave near Ingleton; Tiernham's mine, and Old Cam Rake, Coniston moor; Barefoot-wive's hole; Hardrawkin. In West's guide to the Lakes, caverns are mentioned by the names of Hurtlepot, Sandpot, Donk cave on the base of Ingleborough, Gate Kirk cave on the south-east of Whernside, Greenside cave, Cathnot hole, Hardraw scar near Hawes in Wensleydale, Alan or Alum pot near the village of Seaside, Long Churn, Dickenpot, Halpit hole and Huntpit hole. In the Gentleman's Magazine for 1761 are mentioned others by the names of Blackside cove, Sir William's cove, Atkinson's chamber, Johnson's Jacket hole, and Gaper Gill.

In Lancashire. Dunald mill-hole near Kellet, eight miles from Lancaster, near the road to Kirby Lonsdale. Yardhouse cave and Gingling cave in Kingsdale; and smaller caverns in Yealand.

In Derbyshire. Bagshaw's cavern, south-west of Bradwell. Bamford-hole near Eyam. Bondog hole near Wirksworth. Charleswark cavern near Eyam. Chelmerton cavern. Cresslow mine cavern. Cumberland or Rutland cavern near Matlock. Devil's hall in Foreside mine. Castleton. Dove-hole cavern, Dove-dale. Drake mine cavern. Elden hole (see Cat-