

but which, most probably is the newer red sandstone; a conjecture strengthened from the circumstance, that beds of limestone are interposed between it and the highest coal strata, a position which exactly agrees with that of the magnesian lime. Beneath this limestone several beds of coal basset out, rising to the north under an angle of 30° . One of these, near the middle of the field, is four feet in thickness. To the north of these inclined beds an interval occurs in which the direction of the beds becomes suddenly vertical; and one of the vertical beds so exactly resembles, both in itself and its concomitant strata, the four-foot coal above mentioned, that little doubt can exist of its being a continuation of that bed, broken off and thrown into its present position: with these vertical beds the coal-measures terminate for some distance on the north, an interval of the red sandstone succeeding; beyond which, however, at the distance of 1400 yards, they again emerge in the collieries of Droylsden, rising as at first towards the north. These circumstances appear only to indicate that the coal-measures have here been dislocated by considerable faults and subsidences; and that the newer red sandstone, in consequence of its having been deposited after those subsidences had taken place, has insinuated itself into the vacuities which they occasioned. Such a position must be familiar to those who have attentively examined the analogous formations in the south-west of England.

The north-west horn of the crescent formed by the great Manchester coal-field appears to be about Prescott, not far from Liverpool.

(g) THE NORTH LANCASHIRE COAL-FIELD.

Towards the opposite, or northern extremity of Lancashire, another coal-field occurs, half way between Lancaster and Ingleton. It is of small extent, and has never been thoroughly examined. It probably forms a small insulated basin, surrounded by millstone-grit: but its northern extremity approaches so nearly to the transition slate, on which the mountain limestone of Ingleborough rests, that it is difficult to explain its position, without having recourse to the theory of a considerable subsidence having depressed the coal-measures, and thus brought them down nearly to the level of the slate in that quarter. It is believed in confirmation of this idea, that a second ridge of limestone exists on the south of Ingleton, dipping rapidly in a direction contrary to that which forms the base of the adjacent mountains, namely to the south-east, and so sinking beneath this coal-field. But the observations are very imperfect.