

In the Marquis of Anglesea's park, called Beaudesert, there is a mine of cannel coal, which is reserved for the exclusive use of the Marquis's family. This coal has a brownish-black colour, and much less lustre than common coal. The fracture is flat conchoidal, and quite smooth; but the cross fracture is more rough, and on that account has a blacker appearance. This coal is hard, and does not soil the fingers. Interspersed through it are numerous specks of a brown matter, very similar in appearance to Bovey coal.

Many *faults* occur in the coal-field. They are rents in the beds, which are usually filled with clay. Very frequently the height of the beds varies on the two sides of a fault. By a great fault which occurs near Bilston, the dip of the coal is reversed; that is to say, the coal-beds on the south side of the fault dip south, and those on the north side dip north. But this is an unusual occurrence.

Ironstone is found in several of the measures. But of these two only are worked for the ore. Vegetable impressions are common. The deepest pits are sunk about 140 yards.

Millstone-grit does not appear to have been noticed in this district; but the coal-shales repose immediately on the limestone.

Neither does the subjacent limestone itself belong to the same formation with that constituting the ordinary basis of the other coal-fields; but appears to be of much higher date, agreeing closely in its extraneous fossils and general character with the transition limestone which (as we shall have an opportunity of demonstrating hereafter) is separated from the mountain limestone by the important formation of the old red sandstone. The limestone of Dudley and Walsall will therefore be described in treating of the transition rocks.

This absence of millstone-grit, carboniferous limestone, and old red sandstone, and the immediate contiguity of the coal-measures and a transition rock, constitute a remarkable and important character in this coal-field: and in this it resembles some others in Shropshire, of which we shall hereafter have occasion to speak.

A little on the west of Dudley there is a considerable trace in which some of the collieries having taken fire from spontaneous ignition, many years back, the conflagration has spread to a great extent, and still continues in great activity: this produces many singular effects: smoke and steam may in some places be observed to rise; the vegetation on the surface is accelerated, and the ponds become thermal: where the ignited mass of coal has been nearer the surface, the argillaceous strata