

covering it have become converted by heat into a species of porcelain jasper, beautifully striped by the various degrees of oxidation induced in the iron it contains.

Section IV.

INDICATIONS OF COAL NEAR THE LICKEY HILL.

Mr. Buckland has observed some broken and confused traces of coal-measures and of transition lime near the north foot of the quartz rock of Lickey hill, a few miles south of this coal-field; and it has been reported that old coal-works exist in Ashby heath, about six miles south-east of the Lickey. But this statement rests on no good authority.

CHAPTER IV.

Western Coal Districts.

The coal-fields referred to this division, may be generally described as disposed around the transition district of North and South Wales. They may conveniently be subdivided into A. the north-western, including the coal-fields of Anglesey and Flintshire. B. the western, or those of Shropshire, and C. the south-western, or the three important coal-basins of South Wales, of Monmouthshire, and that of South Gloucester and Somerset.

Section I.

North-western, or North Welsh Coal-fields.

1. ISLE OF ANGLESEY.

The first then of these coal-fields which requires our attention is that contained in the Isle of Anglesey.

A remarkable valley traverses the whole of this island, running nearly parallel with the Menai Straits, and at the distance of about six miles from them: this opens on the south into the æstuary of Maltraeth, and on the north into Redwharf Bay. This valley is flanked on both sides by parallel belts of carboniferous limestone, in the depression between which, coal has