

Mold, skirts the little river Alain with a bold ridge of precipices, forms Eglwysegg rocks in Langollen vale, which it crosses towards the south of that valley. It is broken and interrupted for a time by the slate mountain of Selattyn, (between Chirk and Oswestry) but again resumed in the hill of Lanymyneck, where its strata are nearly horizontal, and contain, as at Ormeshead, malachite; here the line expires.

The coal-formation which rests on this rock in Flintshire, commences with beds of shale and sandstone, answering in position and character to the shale and millstone-grit of Derbyshire. The coal is of different thickness, from three-quarters to five yards. The beds dip from one yard in four, to two in three. They immerse beneath the æstuary of the Dee; are discovered again on its opposite side, on the south of the peninsula of Wiral in Cheshire, where they finally sink beneath superstrata of the newer red sandstone, and are possibly prolonged beneath these, until they re-emerge in the great Lancashire coal-field.

The coal-measures extend from north to south somewhat more than 30 miles, from Llanassa, near the western cape of the æstuary of the Dec, to near Oswestry in Shropshire; forming an exterior belt, co-extensive with the range of the mountain lime from the north of the Clwyd; where the carboniferous lime is partially interrupted by the mountain of Selattyn; the coal-shales rest immediately on the transition slate of which that mountain is composed. Common, cannel, and peacock coal, are found.

Section II.

Middle Western Coal-fields.

(a) COAL-FIELDS OF THE PLAIN OF SHREWSBURY.

After quitting the coal-field just described, a district of much more confusion is entered upon: the general relations of which it will be necessary to sketch, before attempting any account of its coal-fields.

Near the point at which our survey of that coal-field terminated, the Severn quits the transition mountains, to flow through what may be termed, the plain of Shrewsbury, which is skirted at a variable distance on the south-west, by the prolonged chain of those mountains, whence frequent branches are detached, (under the names of the Long Mountain, Breddin Hills, the Stiperstone, and Longmont Forest) which advance far into the