

the few notices we possess, till we have first considered those parts of Europe where better information is to be procured.

As we have noticed in the above paragraph, coal-fields in the north of Europe, apparently connected with the central system of Scotland, so we might naturally look for the resumption of those of the south-western English counties in the opposite regions of France. It is true, indeed, that in the south of Somerset and through Devonshire, no coal has been observed; being probably concealed by the advance of the overlying deposits of new red sandstone which are there in close contact with the transition chains. These transition chains cross, as is well known, from Devon to the peninsula of the Cotentin in Brittany; and we find, as might be expected, a small coal-field reposing against their eastern side at Litry on the south-west of Bayeux; farther south, where the Loire enters between the continuation of these chains, between Angers and Nantes, are more extensive deposits of this formation.

In the centre and south of France there are some limited coal-deposits lying in the vallies of the Loire, the Allier, the Creuse, and the Dordogne, the Aveyron and Ardeche between ridges proceeding from the primitive central group connected with the Cevennes.

Several particulars concerning some of these districts may be found in the account of the geological speculations of Mr. Rouelle in the first vol. of the *Geographie Physique*, forming part of the great *Encyclopedie Methodique*; the *Annales des Mines* for 1821 contains several particulars of those near St. Etienne, department of the Loire, and a full account of those of the Aveyron.

From the south of France we may proceed to Spain, which could not so conveniently be included in any other part of our survey. Coal is here mentioned as occurring in eight places in Catalonia, in three in Arragon, and one in New Castile, but no particulars are given: a list of these localities may be found in *Laborde's view of that country*.

We now return to the consideration of the great carboniferous tract of Northern France and the Netherlands.*

It may generally be described as extending westwards from

* Some Continental Geologists, generalising without a sufficient acquaintance with the particular circumstances, have endeavoured to refer some of the English coal-fields to a prolongation of this line; but as the whole intervening breadth of England, from Kent to Somerset, is occupied by more recent formations which effectually conceal the true connections of this substrata, and as there is nothing in the circumstances of any part of our coal districts indicating any relation with the above beyond that which always exists between formations of the same age, this view cannot be maintained.