

APPENDIX.

AN INDEX OUTLINE OF THE GEOLOGY OF ENGLAND.

THE outline of the geology of England, and the map that accompanied it, given in the first and second editions of this work, presented (the author believes) the first distinct general view of the geology of England that had ever been published; and though several parts of our island have since been more fully examined, the examinations have confirmed the correctness of the leading facts, stated in the editions of 1813 and 1815.

The author has, since, revisited a considerable part of England and Wales, and collected materials for a more ample detail of their geology; but the limits of the present volume will not admit of their insertion, and it is his intention to publish them in a separate form. This index outline will serve more fully to explain the map and sections, by references to the chapters where the different classes of rock are described.

In tracing the great outlines of the physical geography of continents and islands, we may generally perceive, that they are determined by the ranges of primary and transition mountains that traverse them: these have been compared to the skeletons, on which the other parts of a country are constructed.

The length of Britain is determined by different groups of mountains, which, viewed on a large scale, may be regarded as one mountain range, extending north and south (with its ramifications) along the western side of England and Wales, from Cornwall to Cumberland, and from thence to the northern extremity of Scotland. All the highest mountains in England and Wales are situated in this range, which, in reference to our island, may be called the great Alpine chain. This chain is interrupted by the intervention of the Bristol Channel, and again by the low grounds of Lancashire and Cheshire, which divide it into three groups or ranges; these, for the sake of distinction, may be denominated the Devonian range, the Cambrian range, and the Northern range. They form the *Alpine districts* of England (coloured red in the map.) The mountains of the great Alpine chain from Cornwall to Cumberland, are composed of primary rocks and of other rocks, which belong chiefly to the class of transition rocks, described in Chaps. V. VI. and VII. Those parts in which the primary rocks chiefly occur, are shaded by lines. In some few parts, east of the Alpine district, the primary and transition rocks also make their appearance, uncovered by the secondary strata. A range of primary and transition mountains appears once to have extended from the Devonian range, in a north-east direction, into Derbyshire;—the transition and basaltic mountains of that county, the