

CHAPTER XXII.

EXCURSIONS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE GEOLOGICAL CHARACTERS,
AND ORGANIC REMAINS, OF THE TERTIARY DEPOSITS OF
THE LONDON BASIN.

IN leaving London for any part of England, the reader will remember that the area on which the metropolis is situated, as well as the surrounding district to a distance varying from a radius of ten to twenty or thirty miles, consist of the marine Tertiary *eocene* strata (see p. 32.), which have been deposited in, and still occupy, a depression, or excavation of the Chalk, called the *London Basin* (*Wond.* p. 210.). Around this formation, the Chalk forms a distinct boundary, on the south, west, and north, rising up into chains of hills or downs; but on the east, the range is broken, and the Tertiary basin lies open to the sea, affording a passage for the Thames and its tributary streams. From this geological character of the metropolitan district, it results, that all the lines of railroad proceeding from London, traverse, for the first ten